

the difficulty in interpreting the statutes in that particular very focused case, which seemed to me again, some of the provisions of this bill call for the training of clerks and election commissioners. It talks about uniform information and forms or whatever being shared across the state. All those things appeal to me from that experience as well. I think the public will I think very much support action in this direction. I think they are as frustrated as any of us that are directly involved in it by the failures of the system last year. I hope that we proceed with caution, however. Obviously we don't want to take a situation that is obviously in need of repair and make some changes that may make matters worse. I hope that isn't the case here. You're never quite certain with any legislation if that will happen or not, but it seems to me after last year to not act would be a mistake. I think the public is expecting us to take action after the election problems of last year. We know now that every single vote makes a difference. We know that we aren't just saying it as some sort of rhetoric but in fact we've seen it play out in several instances and so to not have a system that makes sure every vote is accurately recorded and every vote as much as possible is given to the candidate of choice, that the problems that we've had would not be repeated. Obviously there will be some occasions where mistakes will be made in the future. Human error is always a problem, but the system itself I think failed us last year. It was the system I think of lack of centralization and authority that led to the problems that we saw last year. Human error was part of it but human error compounded by system failure, so that system is in need of a change. This bill will change that system and I think it will improve it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I'll now recognize Senator Schimek followed by Senators Smith and Chambers. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, I rise to clarify I guess the meaning of this bill. When Senator Withem and I originally introduced bills we introduced similar kinds of bills that called for an election commission or committee that would be advisory in nature. And then in the hearing after much discussion with the Secretary of State who suggested that we have a State Election Commissioner, Senator Withem and I went back to the drawing board and came up with a bill that essentially had the State Election Commissioner as the chief person in charge of elections with the State Election