

back to Section 97 on page 166, it is where an absentee ballot is requested, whether the process of being able to register and have an absentee ballot sent to you at the same time, which seems to me to have a different deadline. I guess my question is, could you go ahead and register right up till election day...

SENATOR WITHEM: No.

SENATOR WARNER: ...under this by requesting an absentee ballot?

SENATOR WITHEM: That is clearly not the intent. I think some people, I think absentee ballots can be mailed out, I don't know when they start going out. They start going out fairly early on, and there may be cases where an individual would not be registered to vote. Somebody in the military is an example, far away, and they get their request in early, that they might be able to do both at the same time. That might be what this is referring to. There is clearly no intent to provide any substantive change in mail-in registration through this bill. The intent is to leave the 30 days prior to the election cutoff for a mail-in voter registration. We will review the language, and if in some way we are inadvertently changing that, we will come back with an amendment to change that back. But at this point, about all I can do is state what the clear intent is, and we will review it to make sure that the bill does what I say the intent means for it to do. I am sorry, that is about the best I can do at this moment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Is there any further discussion on the advancement of LB 579? Seeing none, Senator Conway, are you going to close on this advancement of this, or should Senator Withem close? Or do you want to toss a coin, or, Senator Withem, are you going to close?

SENATOR WITHEM: I think what we will do is we will just stand here dumbly staring at each other, and let the five minutes run out, so you don't have to listen to either of us. I will start. Basically, the bill has...the changes that were envisioned when 579 was originally brought to us is making the voter registration form uniform, and I will comment on that a little bit because we haven't discussed that too much. Since we have changed registration standards to provide that people can be...volunteers can be trained to go out and register voters, some of those people, actually it was brought to us, the bill