

was brought to us by a gentleman from Raymond Central Schools that was registering high school kids to vote at Raymond Central High School. In Raymond Central, they are at the juxtaposition of four different counties. He was finding he had to be trained four different times and fill out four different forms. So the bill said we are going to have a uniform registration form. At the committee hearing, Allen Beermann indicated to us he had no problem with that. The County Officials said they had no problem with that. Allen Beermann did bring up the point, though, that coming down the federal pipeline there may be a federally mandated voter registration form that would be different than what is in the statute. So what the original committee amendments to 579 did was make it, took specific reference to what the voter registration form had to say out of the statutes and put that in rule and regulation authority, at that time it was by the Secretary of State's Office. Now at this time, since that, this bill has become considerably more than it was, and I will let Senator Conway finish up the full explanation of the bill as amended. While he is getting to his microphone, I will just say I think that this is something that Senator Schimek and I had considered important in some of the legislation that we had introduced. I believe members of the Government Committee felt that after hearing problems from election officials concerning this last election, that there really does need to be a centralized authority to receive definitive explanations of election law. True, we will still have problems in the future, but some of the problems we had during this last election may have been avoided if there was an individual in state government with clear responsibilities for making decisions about election law and administering the election law. So that, basically, is what this bill is. I'd yield the rest of my time to Senator Conway.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Senator Conway, you have about 2 1/2 minutes.

**SENATOR CONWAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Senator Withem, for the initial explanation. One of the things that we did lose sight of in the discussion of this structure was the fact that the bill, 579, was originally, prior to my amending it, and is now still part of my amendment, as it was rewritten, was the standardization of voter registration, and I am glad that that point came up because that is still in the bill as part of it. That is really the only substantive change in the election laws per se, in the bill. The balance is really a structure by which we can work through a commission and a commissioner to create