

that kind of centralized figure that, one, can render opinions, that can also promulgate rules and regulations, that can also bring attention to the Legislature of changes that we need to make statutorily, a centralized basis for that. If you look at the structure of that particular group, too, we have designed it to include the known expertises as much as possible. There will be an election commissioner and/or county clerk, whatever their capacity may be, from each of the Congressional Districts, sit on the commission, as well as the Secretary of State. So we actually positioned ourselves in such a way to really hopefully these appointments can tap into some real expertise that is out there, and by having three of these nine people who are out working in the ranks and putting together elections, and many of these people who have helped us in terms of the recodification study that Senator Baack had initiated,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CONWAY: ...we have some real quality people out there, I think, in a position to contribute to much of the thinking in the process. But what we now have with 579 amended with this commission approach is really a compilation of a couple different ideas, a couple of bills that had public hearing. We took a lot of that input. We then, through the public hearing, and through comments from the Secretary of State, and comments from other people, really decided that the first step in this whole process of election law reform, if you will, is to work it through this commission, to have this body out there to help direct us and instruct the people of the 93 counties. Each one of these 93 counties is very autonomous in the way that they do things. They have their own unique needs but they need a central clearinghouse, that if they want to make changes, that it still does not conflict with some of the standards that we have set into law that ultimately, upon a contest, people are going to rely on as a basis for recognizing...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR CONWAY: And so I strongly support the advancement of 579 as amended.

SPEAKER BAACK: You have heard the closing. We will now proceed to vote on the advancement of LB 579. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the advancement of LB 579, have you all voted? Have you all voted? Senator