

amendment to the Warner amendment. We will now vote on that amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Conway's amendment to the Warner amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment to the amendment is adopted. We are now back to the Warner amendment as amended, is that correct?

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SPEAKER BAACK: Anyone wishing to speak to the Warner amendment as amended? Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think the change from five to two years is...makes the Warner amendment more acceptable and I understand the rationale for wanting to have some time limits. We all know games can be played and if there is no time limits, a governor of either party can simply ask one of his friends or her friends to go down to reregister quickly and defeat the purpose, so the two-year limitation is probably a good one. I'm less comfortable with the second part of the Warner amendment, not because of the objective. The objective is to make sure that the people that are actually running the office day to day maintain some sort of political balance, but I'm just not sure that this is the best way to do it. I can envision a situation, Senator Warner, if we have a four-member staff, we have a commissioner, election commissioner and a general counsel that are both Republicans and then to balance they hire two secretaries that are Democrats and we know the Democrats would have an unfair advantage in that situation if they had the secretarial help that was actually running the office as opposed to the two higher level people being of the other party. The model that we use on local election offices I think might be something we could adapt here to accomplish the same objective in a slightly different fashion. At the local level, we have an election commissioner appointed by virtue of belonging to particular party and then we appoint a deputy election commissioner that belongs to the other party so that the two higher level people are of opposite parties, can serve as watch dogs on one another and then those people that are doing the day to day operations of running elections that really are not