

training sessions for people who...election commissioners, they can come to the Legislature for statutory changes when those are merited; as new technology comes on in terms of voting and registering people, they can be on the front edge of getting the 93 counties coordinated, because one of the problems that we have is that many of our elections cut across multijurisdictions of these counties. And our legislative races, for the most part, are in multiple counties. Who prevails when you've got that kind of autonomy between the 93 counties? So we really felt, as we kept going through this thing, that until we had some kind of a centralized process, a commission, if you will, someone, a working administrator of that commission to promulgate rules, regs, monitor, answer questions, provide training,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CONWAY: ...that we probably never will do anything other than continue to do patch work as we find problems, and the problems are usually after some candidates and some individuals and other people have gone through a great deal of anguish. We're hoping to catch it on the front side.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Conway. I appreciate that discussion, because I guess I, too, am always fearful that I'm creating another branch of government, and that's always in the administrative area, is that you give away a little bit of your legislative authority, the legislative control, and you create that fourth branch of government, being administrative end. However, I don't know of anything more fundamental than election laws to making our system of government work. And if our system, I don't know that it's fair to say that it's in a state of disarray or not, as you say, I don't think our election laws are all that goofy, but certainly the election laws, from time to time, need to be reexamined and need to be reformed and shaped into the form of the practice that occurs within the state.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: And, with that, I would support LB 579, as it is now written. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Next speaker on the advancement of the bill is Senator Wehrbein.