

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...Select File bill, see what it's...see how we've got this in its entirety, and perhaps react accordingly on Final Reading. But, at this time, I do support it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. We'll now...Senator Nelson, on the advancement of LB 579.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I almost turned my light off, because I don't think we need a lot of further comments. But I, too, have had some very negative comments about this proposal. One is that if you folks in the state agencies and Secretary of State's office would do their duty, and so on and so forth, and it's always a lot of issues that people simply do not understand. I will be supporting the bill, but I will tell you I will be supporting it against some of my constituents. And they are very adamant that this is 100,000 or better that we don't need to spend. But, again, they also like to have an election done as fair as we can. But I think Senator Conway answered the questions to Senator Kristensen, hopefully, that we all can. But there are a lot of constituents that, I don't know how the word got out, do not like this bill. They just look at it as if we're creating another \$100,000. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Next speaker is Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Just very briefly in support, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I think I appreciate Senator Kristensen's line of questioning with Senator Conway, or his question, I guess. I appreciate it because it was only a question, not a lot of questions, maybe. But Senator Conway's response, this idea is one that originated in a number of different places converging here together on 579. As far as my involvement in this, I wanted to relate to you that an election official came to me, last fall, saying, because of problems that they had had, and this was not one of the counties that had had inordinate problems, but because of problems that this county had had in interpreting the old statutes, with the new technology, the fact that some ballots are signed, some aren't, all that kind of thing. This person was asking that we put all of those...we introduce a bill placing in statute all of those changes that are reflected by the new technology. My response back was, you don't all of that stuff in statute. You do not want the Legislature serving every year, rewriting procedures on conducting elections. What you need is one centralized