

problems, good and bad sort of situations, with 424 that you have with any other law, and that is that once it gets to county attorney level, the county attorney has a lot of discretion as to whether or not the county attorney files charges. But this particular statute is no different from any other. I would just also rise in support of the Conway amendments as a member of the Government Committee, we've had a lot of discussion about election law. And what we've done, what we're still, as a body, trying to determine whether we need a general rewrite of election laws, or whether we need an election board that would supervise this process. There were some very glaring problems within the election laws of the state that really do need to be in place to hopefully prevent replays of some of the problems we had last year. So, I commend Senator Conway for his excellent leadership as a chair of the Government Committee.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. And, Senator Haberman, I want to thank you for bringing up that situation in North Platte. That was one of the things that makes representing the district...North Platte in the 42nd District so much easier, because I have so many people helping to take care of us, and I appreciate that. Senator Conway, I just wanted to add to what Senator Haberman was saying, technically, and add that actually the law that we have had, and the law that's on the books has, in fact, worked in case, even in the North Platte situation. There was a question on petitions, there's a question on whether they were circulated properly. And those charges were filed. The county attorney investigated, through the law enforcement branch, and they discovered that they were not circulated properly. Then they had a decision whether they were going to prosecute all the circulators, or if the main person was going to be responsible for all, and they worked that out. Then they've decided, among themselves at the discretion of the county attorney, how they were going to prosecute. And one person was prosecuted, and one person took the responsibility for that. Then the question was whether the signatures were going to be invalid or not, whether somebody is going to challenge that. And then it became more of a political question within the community, because it is an emotional situation within the community itself on which way the community wants to go in regards to recreation. So, the law basically, the penalties were there, it was prosecuted. The law