

SENATOR CONWAY: That is correct.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, it may be a silly question, I don't mean for it to be, but the way it is now, and there is an amendment that will...that will be pending that will bring a discussion one way or another on it, but the way the bill now reads is that everyone will need to petition on the ballot even if they have a certificate of election at this point. Is that correct?

SENATOR CONWAY: That is correct.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And what you were trying to alleviate is the section of law that states that you can only petition on the ballot if there is a vacancy on the ballot and, technically, a vacancy doesn't exist at this point. Would that be fair?

SENATOR CONWAY: No, that's not quite correct.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SENATOR CONWAY: I think that that's already been addressed in terms of this unique vacancy and we...and your bill as well as mine entered into creating somewhat of another twist for a so-called vacancy with respect to this redistricting question coming into play. What this one is doing is if you get into Chapter 32 elsewhere, you're going to find that the statutes say that no more than two people can be on a general election ballot for a single office, if it's a single office. And our concern brought by some questions of various members when we got into that was if we allow the petitioning technique where we may end up with three qualified circulators who come on board, we don't want any confusion in the fact that someone goes into another section of Chapter 32 and says, whoa, whoa, whoa, you can only have two and that's what the law says, when, in fact, under this provision we know that we anticipate one, two, three, four, even more, hopefully not, but even more. So this is an attempt to alleviate that particular aspect of the potential of someone tapping and then having to get a third party ruling as to, well, which two, and if, you know, that kind of confusion comes about.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Conway, one other question, if I may, I put an amendment which you and I discussed earlier and also, during that discussion you and I had, we both had differences of opinion as to whether it...which way that we felt