

SPEAKER BAACK: The next speaker is Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. Speaker and members, possibly I could bring some clarification to this whole process. What Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment does is any district where you have a petition or where you have certificate of nomination holders which, in this case, as we have slowly settle the dust on this, would only be District 17 where there is such a situation, that what he is attempting to do is move forward the philosophy that those persons, those two should not have to go out and circulate petitions. But since the district has been changed, it's opens the door for someone else and that was the philosophical twist. I am now of the mind to say the easiest way to settle it, particularly after dealing with Bill Drafting because, with the adoption of my amendment a bit ago, his no longer conforms and rather than save me or my opponent going out and getting 645 petitions with the potential of creating another conflict in language, I would urge the body not to accept Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment at least at this time because, like I say, the only thing it would do by adopting it is save me having to circulate and get 645 signatures, as well as my opponent in this case, and without his amendment we don't run into the difficulty of it providing any other "conflictions" within the language. So I would, I guess, urge the body at this time to not support Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment only because of the way that it's drafted. Philosophically, I think that's another question, but this whole amendment would only address District 17, would only address my opponent and myself, doesn't even address other petitioners because that opportunity is still there as it is. So that's all it addresses is myself and this other person and rather than create a situation that creates conflicts I would urge you not to accept this amendment and that takes us back to where we are which say we've got a...if the district changes, anybody who wants to run in the general election has to go out and get 645 signatures and they will be on the general ballot and will stand election in that particular fashion.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Conway. Senator Bernard-Stevens, further discussion on your amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Conway began this discussion on the amendment by saying that at this point he kind of urged the body to support...he's tending