

even though they may not meet the strict letter of the law. The practical result is that clerks try to predict what a court would rule valid. This has the potential to create 93 different standards as to what is a valid signature. My understanding of the original purpose of 337 is that the discretion of whether a signature substantially complies with statutory provisions would be removed from the county level and instead be made by my office at the state level. While this would place an additional burden on my office, the uniformity gained in the process is worth the effort. And in response to concerns that people have that this would put a lot more petition signatures on the Secretary of State's desk, I believe that the Secretary of State will put out more opinions and provide more information to county clerks and election commissioners which should ultimately take care of some of that problem. And with that I would simply urge the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Madam President, members, I would like to talk a little bit about the process that went through in the committee when we were putting this bill together and actually the group of people that worked on this during the summer came up with some very good ideas and we tried to stay as close to them as we could and there were a few changes. The one considering Senator Schimek's amendment right now, I see no problem with that. After all, it does say a contrasting color right now, and if we put the red back in, at least it will be the same in all the counties and we won't have one with blue, one with green with yellow polka dots in it, and I think this is good, or off white and white. So I stand here and I am in support of Senator Schimek's amendment to LB 337 and I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Schimek.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, call the question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Do I see five hands? I see five hands. The question before you is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Senator Bohlke. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: I would ask for a call of the house and I'll accept call-in votes.