

chance to really take a good look at, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well, I said I appreciate you're seeing it...

SENATOR BROMM: Okay.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...because, quite frankly, I was worried about the bill after this and I had not looked at it real well. So, in conclusion, I will support this amendment and I think that, whether it's an Attorney General's Opinion or just another lawyer's opinion, this is a good change.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. And before we move to the next speaker, we'd announce that a former colleague and father of one of the Pages is present under the north balcony, former Senator Gary Hannibal, if you could rise and be recognized. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to the amendment as written. Senator Bromm, I'd be willing to talk with you about some language, but let me tell you where I'm coming from on this. First of all, I mean, I don't want to presume anything about anybody's legal opinion here because I am not an attorney, but I think that there are some good arguments that are made by attorneys on both sides of these questions. And you know, Senator Pirsch, it is a bill that I want to see enacted. I do not want to jeopardize it and I chose not to offer amendments to that because I think there are good reasons for leaving these provisions in the bill and I think they can be argued. Voting for this amendment is not necessarily voting for the people. Voting for this amendment is voting for a system that is not equitably administered across the state and I think it is highly amusing, in a way, that the Attorney General chose the name "Cap" Dierks to use in this particular opinion because "Cap" Dierks is well known in his district, in his county, in his precinct. He is very well known and would have no problems getting a verification done in his county. However, if "Cap" Dierks lived in Douglas County, he might have a totally different situation and I submit to you that the application of the whole verification process has been questioned for a number of years and it was because of that that the election commissioners on our petition task force suggested that it would be far, far better that the Secretary of State make that final decision and that they, over the years, had so many questions, it became a