

the bill. (FA162 appears on page 1783 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Bromm, would you like to open on the new amendment.

SENATOR BROMM: Yes, I would.

SENATOR LINDSAY: The other amendment is withdrawn.

SENATOR BROMM: Yes, thank you. In discussions that have been occurring while the body has been debating this measure and part of the discussion with the Secretary of State's Office and Senator Schimek, we've concluded that, as Senator Maurstad was just alluding to, that the language in this part of the bill which is most likely to cause a constitutional problem in this section, were the words, if they do not match, the signature and address shall be presumed invalid. So this amendment would strike that language out and would substitute the following language, and I quote. "If they substantially match, the signature and address shall be presumed valid by the Secretary of State". So we have done two things. We have changed the presumption to a positive presumption and we have added the word "substantially" in front of the word "match". And I believe, I'm pretty sure I'm right, that the Secretary of State is comfortable with this change. We were going over it, trying to come up with the right words and he is, I believe, comfortable with it and I appreciate Senator Schimek signing onto me with a substitute amendment and I would yield to her any of the rest of my opening time if she would like to use it.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Yes, I would like to speak in favor of the amendment because all along my whole goal was to be able to take from the hands of the election commissioners and county clerks this decision about what substantial compliance was. And the essence of this amendment is that it gives it to the Secretary of State's Office to decide what substantial compliance is, or substantially...yes, it says if they substantially match, the signature and address shall be presumed valid. That's traditionally what has occurred in the county clerks' and election commissioners' offices and this just says that it will now be done by the Secretary of State. I'm satisfied with that. That's really all I was ever trying to accomplish anyway and if it makes other people more comfortable, I'm fine.