

signature and address, with the petition signature and address the only way that the county clerk can find the signature on the petition to be valid, or is that the only way that there's a presumption of validity?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is the only way that the presumption would arise.

SENATOR BROMM: So is it possible that a county clerk could find, based on the information that he has available to him, that the signature is valid, even though they don't perfectly match and there isn't a presumption of validity?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bromm, I have to look at the language to see if that's a decision that the county clerk can make or if only the Secretary of State. With the way you all amended it...

SENATOR BROMM: Well, well, we're at...we're at...I'll talk a minute while you're reading...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR BROMM: ...and just tell me when you're ready to respond on that. But it seems to me that the county...and I'm beginning to feel a little more comfortable, and maybe I'm...maybe my comfort is not well-founded. But the presumption of validity most definitely arises and with Senator Chambers' amendment only arises where you have a match between the registration records and the petition signature and address.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Correct.

SENATOR BROMM: However, it seems to me if the county clerk has more than just the authority to look at the two lists to see if they identically match, he or she could find the signature to be valid, but there would not be any presumption that would be in favor of that finding. If it went to the Secretary of State and evidence were presented one way or the other, there would be no presumption that it were valid if they didn't match. Now, Senator Chambers, would you like to comment on that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bromm, that is, and I think you have spotlighted very clearly, a separate issue from the presumption. A matter which is handled by a presumption can also be handled by the introduction of evidence. The raising of the presumption