

to make some of the judgments that they must make when verifying signatures. And part of the reason is because the courts, throughout the years, have given different interpretations to different situations. And so it's always a call for them to try to determine what the courts are going to say. So one of the purposes in this bill was to take it out of their hands and give it to the Secretary of State where there would be consistency in those interpretations, and make the Secretary of State the final word on it. If you put the words "to compare with" back in here instead of "to match", all you're really doing is putting it back, I think, in the hands of the election commissioners or county clerks. And then again you would have the inconsistency and the nonuniformity across the state. So I would oppose it for that reason. Now one of the things that I've heard kind of discussed on the peripheral here this morning is about the word "to match". And I can't go into some of the legal discussion of it, but I can tell you that I think it would be appropriate for us to leave the word "match" in there and not try to define it concisely because we can't do that on the floor, what "to match" means. I mean we can't think of all the possibilities and situations which might occur. I think that it's more properly left in the hands at the Secretary of State. Now I'm...you know, people may disagree with me on that. But I think that for instance, in just the name alone you can get into disputes about whether Jim should be accepted for James. You can get into arguments about whether the middle initial needs to be included, whether somebody who goes by their middle initial or middle name instead of their first name and uses the first initial, whether they...if they used their second name instead of their first name and it's not their legal name, I mean you can just go on and on and on. I would not want us to try to define "match" on this floor. I think that's more properly left to the rules and regs and to the directives from the Secretary of State's Office to the county clerks, and particularly as questions arise. But the main thing is that I think we're accomplishing by this bill is not to have to have too many of those directives. Perhaps the real common ones could be directives. But the other ones probably should be left in the hands of the Secretary of State, and hopefully we won't leave so many questions open-ended, we'll have...we will have, as I said many times on this floor, more uniformity in these interpretations across the state. So I would encourage us not to try to too closely define what we're trying to do here. We have said that we think that they need to find the printed name, street and number or voting precinct and city, village or post office address to match, and that the...