

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Bromm to open on his amendment.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President, and fellow senators, as I indicated previously, I have some of the same concerns that Senator Vrtiska has and many others on the floor, I think. What we don't want to do is go from the state of the law as it has been which simply requires the county clerk to find the signer to be a registered voter and for there to be virtually no guidelines or uniformity in how the 93 clerks or election commissioners arrive at that result to a point of what would give the appearance of extreme restrictiveness or an extreme narrow situation where we, if we do have Edward Paul Jones on the registration and if he signs Edward P. Jones, that it's not a valid signature. In our rural areas, we have a lot of addresses that are changing right now and becoming more definite in, for example, Rural Route 1, in a lot of places now, there's a box number added, Box 24, or whatever it might be. We have most...many of our rural counties are becoming signed with like street signs and the brown trucks like to have the addresses be as specific as possible. UPS, it's easier for them to find the house. If we have addresses, in case of fire, the more specific the address the better. But many registered voters that go to sign those petitions and if their address for years and years has been Rural Route 1, will put down...and that's the way they registered, but if they now have a Box 42A, they very well might put Box 42A after Rural Route 1 and, in the literal sense, it doesn't match, and that's kind of an absurd result and a result which I think the Legislature would be...I think we would find ourselves being made fun of for putting that kind of obstacle into the petition process. Now, I'm not saying that the drafting of my amendment is perfect, by any means, but what my amendment says and what's been handed out to you is an effort to put a definition into this section right after the Schimek amendment which we adopted earlier or right ahead of that language which puts a definition of "match" in for purposes only of this section and it would read as follows. For purposes of this section, match shall mean substantially the same and does not require the signatures and addresses to be exact counterparts. Senator Landis, who is a frustrated English instructor, tells me that it could be worded a little better and we maybe should say, the respective signatures and addresses to be exact counterparts. It's not my intent to say that a signature has to be like an address or an address has to be like a signature. My intent is that the signature on the