

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...standing right in your face, telling you what to do when you actually have a ballot in front of you. That is not what we want and that's what potentially could happen with this type of bill the way it's written at this time. And I think the body needs to remember that even on election day, when the votes are cast, there's that 200-foot barrier where no one can be in your face. It's just you, your "conscient," the pencil...conscience, your pencil, and the ballot, in a very secure, closed area. Under the Cudaback bill, the potential is you'll be in your living room, three or four people in your face, the ballot right there, and then you may be forced to make a decision. I don't like it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I was going to make many of the points that Senator Bernard-Stevens did, particularly on the 200 feet, and direct...remind the body that we have gone to great lengths to allow people to vote in the ballot booth, in the booth without any sort of influence at all. You're carefully checked in, you're assured that it's isolated, it's fairly quiet, all of these kinds of things in order to ensure the integrity of the ballot. I started out this morning, also, thinking this might not be a bad idea. And I, again, I'm not imposed to accommodating some of the problems that face many of our electorate across the state or across the country where there's great distances to go to vote and things like that. Some of this...part of this bill does appeal to me. One of the reasons that I opposed the...or am supporting Senator Schimek's amendment in the 5,000, taking out the numbers, is because I believe it might be even more appropriate in larger jurisdictions than in smaller ones. I think there is more opportunity perhaps for mischief, if you will, in smaller jurisdictions where this...say the ballot's sent out twenty days prior. There's a twenty-day window for people to visit house to house. Certainly in a smaller voting area, it would be opportune to do that. You could go door to door, in most cases you'd know your neighbors, do that type of thing, where it would not be so advantageous to living in the larger city where you couldn't possibly cover a large number of voters. So I hate to read too much into this, Senator Cudaback. I understand that you're sincere in bringing this. It does make sense in many ways. But as we've worked so hard in this country for over