

the vote is the same. The potential for that vote is still the same, and we have nothing in statute to address any of the fraud situations. So at least the Bernard-Stevens amendment gets it back to the original discussion on the merits of the mail-in and the pilot concept of the mail-in ballots. And I would be much more comfortable at that point, since the bill did advance...

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** One minute.

**SENATOR WITEK:** ...from General File, I do have some concerns that it has enough votes to...to advance from Select File. And I would like to see this amendment adopted. If you are going to vote for the Cudaback bill, I would be much more comfortable adopting the Bernard-Stevens amendment and then possibly looking at some of these fraud issues before we even go into the pilot program concept of the Cudaback amendment. Thank you.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Schimek.

**SENATOR SCHIMEK:** Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I would stand in strong opposition to the Bernard-Stevens amendment. This is a policy decision we made on General File and I think it was a good one. What this amendment, in effect, would do would be to tell my county that essentially they're not as capable of conducting a mail-in ballot as maybe some of the other counties and telling them that their local boards aren't capable of making that decision fully. We added an amendment to this that said you have to have a supermajority of the board to decide whether or not you do the local mail-in ballot. If you believe that local control is an important philosophical aspect of government, then you won't vote for this particular amendment because it takes away the right of Lancaster County and Douglas County and a whole bunch of other counties in this state to have a mail-in ballot. The discussion on General File indicated again, and again, and again, that there has been no fraud in the states that have collect...that have had mail-in ballots for a number of years. Now I've heard arguments on this floor concerning other bills that we ought to look at other states' experiences when we're trying to put together a new program, and maybe if they haven't had success, maybe we won't have success either. Well, you can't have it both ways. If somebody, if some states have success using mail-in ballots, then you've got to accept the fact that it can be done and it can be done without fraud. In fact, in fact, studies have shown that the