

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, to open on your amendment. (AM3448, found in the Journal on page 1186.)

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, the amendment has been passed out to you and I think it's agreeable to Senator Cudaback. It simply picks up, from Oregon law, the secret envelope concept so that when you're voting by mail, the secrecy of your ballot is protected by having what they call a secrecy envelope; and I think this is fairly standard procedure for mail-in type ballot scenarios or statutory structures, and that's all it would do. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Cudaback, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, and members, I'm glad Senator Beutler picked up on this. I should have earlier. I agreed to it and it makes the bill even that much better. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Beutler, I did talk with the Election Commissioner in Lancaster County and I'm sorry I didn't think to talk to you, also, but she indicated to me that they've never used the duplicate envelope on absentee ballots, that they've always been able to set up a process whereby the integrity is maintained. She says this would, of course, incur some costs because of the extra envelopes, but I'm assuming that wouldn't be much. I mean I don't really don't have a terrible objection. I just wonder if it's really necessary.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Robinson. I'm sorry. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I guess I feel that it's a very good idea to do this. I don't know on what authority they're doing that, I assume that an individual election commissioner chooses to do it or chooses not to do it. Is that why they're doing it? I mean, in any event, I think...I think it should be done in every case.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, I guess what I'm saying, that she doesn't use the duplicate envelope in the mail-in balloting. I