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LB 571, 802

brought to my attention by some county clerks who felt that having three envelopes involved with the absentee ballot process was unnecessary and that it could be handled very well by two envelopes, and so this is the two-envelope amendment, Mr. President. It is...you know, it doesn't sound like a big deal, but it is, it is an expense, and the amendment would say that in giving an absentee ballot out that you can use one side of the envelope to address the envelope to the election commissioner and you can use the other side of the same envelope to identify the voter, and they sign the other side and so you're making use of both sides of that envelope. Now, the process, as it works now, you have a...I have a picture here in front of me and I...perhaps it's easier to explain with pictures. But you had a smaller envelope that the voter signed which was placed into a little bit larger envelope with the election commissioner's name on it, which is placed into a larger envelope with the voter's name and address on it. And so we are condensing that and making use of one envelope for the purpose of identifying the election commissioner and identification of the voter. Now, I had some questions about this when I was first presented with it, about whether or not this would somehow compromise confidentiality or secrecy, and I'm satisfied that it does not change anything in that respect. And the election commissioners and clerks that I have visited with about this assure me that it would really have no effect on that. It's a relatively small change, but I would ask your support. Of course I'm interested in how Senator Schimek would feel about it, but I would ask for your consideration. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bromm. For discussion on the Bromm amendment to LB 571, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I just wanted to explain a little bit about the background on this issue. If you recall, we had this discussion once before, I think it was on General File, on LB 802. And that bill has advanced to Final Reading. It was signed by the Governor. And during that discussion the committee amendments were introduced. And the committee amendments actually reinstated the three-envelope provision, and you all agreed at that time that we should reinstate that. Senator Bromm,