

election commissioners were not certain about the validity of a particular signature, then it would go to the Secretary of State. Now one thing that the language does do is say that the registration has to match the signature. In other words, the address has to match the name and all that kind of thing. Then when it gets to the Secretary of State, if it has been challenged and it gets to the Secretary of State, then the Secretary of State can ask for more evidence that this is, indeed, a valid registration. So with that, I guess I would like to encourage the adoption of this amendment. Would be interested in hearing discussion and try and answer any questions that you might have. Also might mention the three month, one month part of this provision, actually I like the one month and that's what I wanted in the task force originally. But one of the reasons that we did do this was because of the experience again of the election commissioners during the last petition drive and Patty Hansen testified before the committee that there were people who came into the state, registered to vote, one of them at least at the motel in which they were staying, were here for a matter of days, collected a number of signatures and then immediately left the state. Well, the problem with that is that when the election commissioners began looking at these petitions and trying to verify signatures and finding some that were suspicious, they had no way that they could get in touch with these petition circulators. So the thought behind this was that you have to at least be registered a month in the state before you can circulate petitions. That would probably indicate that you had an interest in the state and an interest in the object of the petition and that you intended to stay here after the process was over. Now, of course, one month doesn't guarantee it and three months doesn't guarantee it, but at least it is a little bit of a safeguard against the fly-by-night operation that sends people into the state for the sole purposes of collecting signatures and then they leave again. It was thought to be a measure which could help prevent fraud. With that, I guess I would conclude my remarks and ask if you have any questions on the amendment.

**PRESIDENT ROBAK:** Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Witek, on the Schimek amendment to the committee amendment.

**SENATOR WITEK:** Madam Chairman, members of the Legislature. I would ask that you not amend the committee amendments. This reminds me of the election bill that we went through...well, for two years, in the last two years. A lot of the changes that