

petition drives in the past that could have used this help and I'm going to give you one very good example is the term limits petition drive of last year. Now we know, and, in fact, some of us knew ahead of time, but now we know that there were some inadvertent mistakes made in that draft so that you have a lot of inconsistencies about who the term limits applies to. In some cases it doesn't apply I think to the county sheriffs. It doesn't apply to mayors. It doesn't apply to a number of elected officials when I'm sure that the intention was that the bill apply to everybody. There were other inconsistencies in that petition drive that I'm not going to go into now, but suffice it to say if there had been a Revisor of Statutes reviewing the language, that wouldn't have been a problem. Secondly, under Section 5, it also says, and this is part of the committee amendment, that that review shall take 10 days and that once that period has ended, then the Secretary of State shall make the results of the review public. Now this was different, frankly, than what the task force recommended. The task force recommended that it be kept confidential because we felt, and particularly those who had circulated petitions before, felt that it should be like a senator with a bill. You know that when you take a bill up to bill drafters, the bill drafter doesn't tell anybody else about that bill. That is your bill and nobody else has access to that information. We felt that the drafter of the petition should have that same privilege I guess. However, there are good arguments to be made on the other side of the question and the committee decided in favor of making that public. At the same time that is accomplished and the Secretary of State shall provide five camera ready copies of the petition including any changes within five days to the sponsor and the petition shall be printed from the forms provided. I might tell you that this is a very important provision because right now there is no form required for petitions to be circulated and so what you get is a mish-mash of petitions, and Patty Hansen, again from Election Commission Office here in Lancaster County, came in and gave us some examples of petitions without any place for the circulator to sign. They sometimes had three different divisions across and not clear what was to go in each division so you'd have a signer signing in all three places across that petition. I mean a lot of things like that that made it very difficult for the county clerks and election commissioners to read these petitions. I looked at it and I don't understand how they can actually read some of those signatures because the space provided is so tiny and the handwriting is so bad that it's very difficult to read