

the issue. That is the issue, and any costs that go with this bill will be related to the number of people that are registered. As you throw the arguments back and forth there is no need for any substance of additional cost or problems unless it really does something in improving the citizen participation in government. The questions that bother will be in proportion to what it does. If they are slight, I do not know that and no one in this body has anything but conjecture as to what participation we will have of people coming to those polling places and registering to vote, but the cost will be in direct proportion and if you believe in citizen participation in government, you will support the bill. Many of the polling places presently are not busy, and I think it is the cheapest way we can put a place for somebody to register to vote out there. We have existing personnel out there now and I think it is probably the cheapest route you can go, is use existing personnel, deputize them and register them at the polling place so they can vote, not in that election, but in the next one where everything can be clarified and there will be no problems of people trying to beat the system on it. I thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson, then Senator Merz, then Senator Labeledz, then Senator Barrett and then Senator Murphy. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I know that time is precious. I want to make just a couple of very modest remarks about this measure. With the amendment which we adopted...I got to thinking about it, maybe we didn't adopt that amendment, no, I was going to say, with the amendment which we adopted the bill itself is a very simple and innocuous bill. Actually even without the amendment the bill is a relatively modest bill. It doesn't impose a lot of additional work on the people who do work polling places. I should tell you that I am a member of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. We did hear this bill. We did vote to put this bill on the floor of this Legislature. We did take testimony from both urban election commissioners and rural county clerks. They did indicate they thought there could be some difficulty involved with this type of a system, where on the other hand they all agreed that we should do whatever we could to enhance the electoral process. I, frankly, do not think this bill deserves to be killed.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Question.