

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...that was printed separately and withdraw the other one.

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to amend. (The Withem amendment appears on page 1191 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: First of all, I would stand to reiterate what Senator Baack said. I am one who philosophically am opposed very, very strongly to paying circulators for petitions but that's not the issue. I guess the only thing I would differ with what Senator Baack said, he said this bill makes a substantive change. The bill really puts the statutes in line with the change that the courts have already made for us and we have to pass the bill. But if we are going to have paid circulators, I think that there are some restrictions we need. I filed two amendments, one of them probably a little more controversial than we want to deal with on consent calendar that deals with circumstances around which a petitioner...a circulator can be paid. That's the amendment I have withdrawn. The other one is another bill that had been introduced by the Government Committee. The committee...and I am a member of that committee, we decided to just advance one bill and do our arguments and discussion about the petition process around this particular bill. So this particular bill was killed by the committee. It was a friendly kill motion as opposed to an unfriendly kill motion. It was a bill, LB 524, had absolutely no opposition. A large number of people, if you want to look in your bill books, did testify in favor of it. All it does is establish accountability and disclosure reporting procedures for petition campaigns. The rationale is that if this process is one that is available to people that can raise large sums of money, can hire circulators, put them out on the street, get petitions, get issues on the ballot, that we ought to have, as citizens, the same access to knowledge about who these people are, where their funds are being raised, how they're spending