

nature, there can be no comparison. He mentioned, which is probably true, that an appeal can take up to two years, that is if it is a civil matter. Criminal matters are accelerated or expedited. What you are doing, if you accept Senator McFarland and Senator Kristensen's proposition is to say in exchange for having perhaps a quicker chance for resolution of your issue, you go to a three judge panel, not the State Supreme Court, not the State Supreme Court. So the question that citizens will have to answer, if this matter makes it to the ballot, and I really hope that it doesn't, is whether in exchange for having a quicker appeal, it would be to a smaller group of judges and not the Supreme Court, itself. What the U.S. Supreme Court has done, and Senator McFarland did not mention this, and I am surprised he didn't being a scholar, as he is, on these matters, the U.S. Supreme Court has started rejecting so many appeals that they don't have enough work load to fill out their upcoming session.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And it is something that legal scholars throughout the country are commenting on, and some of the issues are very important and they relate to constitutional questions and serious federal law questions. And the Supreme Court has refused to accept them so those matters are left out there hanging and there is nothing that can be done about it. So what a Supreme Court can do when it has the opportunity or the power to refuse appeals is to say we are not going to accept them and there is not anything, since that would be in the Constitution, that this Legislature or anybody else could do because the perimeters have been set by this constitutional amendment that is being proposed as to which issues can be appealed to the Supreme Court as a matter of right. If the Constitution sets that limit, the Legislature by law cannot change it. And before we jump precipitously into a change this drastic, what the Supreme Court could have done, if it was trying to deal off the top of the deck instead of rush people along, is...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to have a thorough public hearing and study of this matter so there could...oh, I will wait until my next time, Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Senator Kristensen, please,