

thought about it ahead of time but then I thought, no, it...that may be unfair to the sponsors of the bill since they'd done a lot of work with it, and this...a lot of work has went into this whole process. But at this stage of debate, it seems appropriate to bring a bracket motion because several senators, including Senator Chambers, Senator Schimek, have questions about this whole particular proposal of amending the Constitution. And I think, at this point, we have to ask ourselves, given this late time in the session when we've been debating this for over an hour now, I think we're going to be going on two hours, whether or not this amendment is ever going to pass the Legislature anyway. My feeling is that, very likely, even if this bill would advance on Select File, that when it gets to Final Reading it will not have the 30 votes to be placed as a constitutional amendment for purposes of putting it on the ballot in the General Election. I'm not sure there are 30 votes to do that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: (Gavel.) Go ahead.

SENATOR McFARLAND: And because of that concern and the limited time we have available now, I think it is appropriate for us to really consider whether we should bracket this motion or bracket this particular bill at this time. We could spend a lot of time here today debating it and we've got two more amendments filed by Senator Chambers. Then he said he's going to bring back another amendment to clarify language in the bill. We have LB 1141, which is coming up next, and it has three amendments on it, and my thought is that we can debate this for a long time and yet, when it comes to final passage on the last day of the session or on Friday or, excuse me, on Thursday of this week there will not be the 30 votes anyway. As I recall, there were 26 votes initially to advance this from General File. I think those 26 votes were only achieved after the initial roll call showed there were only 24 votes to support it and then 2 votes then came on to get it off General File. I think that enough people have reservations about this bill and about this whole process that we should really consider bracketing the bill right now and ending it. It may not seem fair. It may seem, after so much work has went into this, to give...the argument can be made give Senator Withem, Senator Warner their chance to have it