

Kristensen, you know that with the way this bill is drafted, if I wanted to try to delay it, that could be done, but I hope you understand, as we talked about before, that this discussion...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...has not been to delay the bill but to try to stop it. My recommendation is that we vote no on the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. We will now go to Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Chambers has put the bait out and I guess I've taken the bait, Senator Chambers. I just want you to know that I'm not cowed by anybody who is supporting this bill. In fact, I don't even know who is supporting this bill. I have had nobody lobby me on it. I guess...I guess what I would have to say to you is that you are so eloquent on this bill that some of the rest of us don't see the need to get up to the microphone and speak on this bill. But nevertheless you know that I have had some trouble with this bill all along. I did not vote for the bill to put it on the ballot last year. I did not vote for the constitutional amendment on the ballot and I do have some reservations about this bill. In fact, I may introduce an amendment and I have already told Senator Kristensen I may introduce an amendment on Select File regarding the selection process. But I would like to turn to Senator Kristensen now and just ask him. Senator Kristensen, once the people pass a constitutional amendment, how obligated are we to enact that and how soon?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, you're talking about two different situations there. One, legally there is no requirement that we have to enact it at all. Now, practically, and I think in the terms of politically as well, but practically the voters voted for it because of a need. The need is not going to go away, in fact, the need is going to exponentially increase every year that we don't do something with it. We should have done this two years ago. We should have done it five years ago. But the pressing matter of it is that in December of this year the appellate division of the district court, something we did two years ago, the Band-Aid court, sunsetted. They are no longer hearing cases. The caseload is growing daily, more than it has in the past. That's the...that's the urgency and the need.