

you're next.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in support the committee amendment, which I voted to support in committee, yesterday, but did not vote to advance the bill. And I would like to explain my votes in the committee to this body. There are a lot of different threads of thought running here, and I'm glad Senator Beutler brought at least the discussion to the floor about the constitutional amendment, because I think that's something that maybe we're going to have to consider here before we're done. But, Senator Beutler, before I make my remarks, I do have just one or two questions of you regarding that constitutional amendment, because it fits into this whole discussion about what the court will do, and I don't think any of us know that for sure. But if we were to pass a constitutional amendment and the people voted on it in November and said yes, and then the court came down, in January, with a ruling on a lawsuit that...that made yet another part of the state plan unconstitutional, do you think that constitutional amendment would apply, or would we rather have to go back to the old constitutional provision under which the rest of the state plan was adopted? You and I talked about this, this morning a little bit.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah, and I have set in motion, hopefully, some forces that will bring us some more research on that question. But I am of the opinion that you would operate under the new Constitution, that you would not have to operate under the old, you would not have to go back and operate under the old Constitution. If it were called into question eight years from now, I don't think you would go back and deal with the old Constitution when you've had a new Constitution in effect for six years, for example.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Even if we were just redoing one portion of the plan? I mean, I can see if you were redoing the whole plan, there probably wouldn't be any question. But if you were just doing a portion, redoing a portion, you think that we could maybe work under a new constitutional amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, I think so.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. I would appreciate seeing the research that you develop on that.