

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Just briefly again, I would hope the body might discuss it a little bit so at least that we have a rationale of why we're doing what we're doing. The amendment, as before us now, if agreed to, would state the following. In this case, the bill we have before us that we'll be getting to, LB 7, if it's in its present form, the people in District 17 will have already had a primary election. There will be some people that will be added to District 17 that were not there before. This amendment, if agreed to, would simply say those people who went through the primary, candidates that went through the primary would continue to have a certificate of election and their names would appear on the ballot. There would then be the ability, through the bills that we...the amendments that we agreed to previously, there would be then an ability for anyone who had not a chance to run, because they were not in the district prior to that, they would have a chance to petition on the ballot and be there as well. In theory, then everyone in the district would have a chance to say, I want to run for the Legislature and I want to have a vote taken. If the amendment is not agreed to, then what the body has decided philosophically to do, which is also a legitimate way to go, then the body will have said that even though there have been primary elections, in this case District 17, but it could also deal with 19 if we agree to another proposal that would be before us, but if there has already been elections that those people who have certific...valid certificate of elections would be automatically on the ballot. And through the amendments that we have already agreed to on LB 9 anyone that's added new...excuse me, if we do not agree with this amendment, there would be no one on the ballot. All people, including those that won the primary, would still have to petition to be on the ballot. That is the two questions. A vote no on this would mean that no one will be on the ballot in the general unless they petition on. A vote yes on this amendment means certificate of election holders will automatically be on the ballot but anyone else who has not previously been in the district but added would then be able to petition and be on the ballot as well. And that is the nature of the question. There may be some other legal arguments pro and con and I would hope if any of the attorneys have one...have an argument that the body should consider, I would hope they would bring it forward. One argument that comes to mind is an argument that what happens if you change a legislative district, period? Could it be argued in court that the previous primary is not valid because