

the bifurcated system plan that was introduced as LR 22CA. I've got a lot more things I'd like to say but I think I'm about running out of time.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Hall.

**SENATOR HALL:** Thank you, Mr. President and members, I rise in support of the committee amendments but reluctantly. I would like to see them go farther. The committee amendments as Senator Schimek portrayed them really are a compromise because there were some of us that were on the task force that believed that the changes needed to be made far more reaching than those that currently exist in the draft of the committee amendments or the bill that was introduced on behalf of the task force. There are some of us that have thought that for a number of years and have introduced pieces of legislation along the way to achieve that end. The issue of where LR 6 comes from, well, where LR 22CA originated and the whole issue of the change in the constitution dating back to 1988 really you have to go back a few years and remember what got us there. And I did appreciate Senator Schimek's discussion of that to some extent, but LR 248CA came out of basically what was the failed lottery petition drive. There were a number of issues that needed to be addressed with regard to the whole petition effort. Frankly, there were charges that were filed against individuals that were involved and the petition process was in limbo. It was paralyzed because of those types of efforts. There was no rush to bring the Legislature into session and decide that we need to correct this problem. Actually it took quite a while for changes to be made. There were bills that were introduced and I believe the one that I cosponsored along with a number of other people was LR 716 which rewrote the whole section of statute, LB 716 rather, which rewrote the whole area dealing with the petition effort. The one area in particular dealt with paid circulators and that was one that came about subsequent to a U.S. Supreme Court decision that said freedom of speech was an issue and that individuals who paid circulators had just as much right to express their speech through the payment, the use of money, as opposed to the use of shoe leather and that was a key issue with regard to where we went with regard to the whole petition effort. There were bills that I introduced and others as well that looked and factored in paid circulators, also looked at the issue of where we have come since the initiative and referendum petition efforts were put into the statutes. The whole issue of how much easier it is to acquire those types of