

signatures to move throughout the state, the urbanization if you will of the population for purposes of getting to a larger body of individuals who are eligible to sign those petitions. It is something that has changed dramatically from the time that these original proposals were, and the percentages that they represent, were put into either the constitution or the statutes. The issue of LR 248CA though is one of bringing some uniformity to the whole question out of that failed lottery petition drive as to whether or not we wanted registered voters to be those individuals who sign petitions, and in fact, that's what we wanted. There is not an individual who voted on the measure on Final Reading...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...who opposed it. There was not an individual who came to committee who opposed it. As a matter of fact, there were letters in support, one of them from Mr. Jaksha, that and I quote, he said they're inconsistent applications of the same general meaning and the argument is I propose the term registered voter for the purpose of a petition to be used. The support of the same individuals who now object to the change that took place, somehow the interpretation by the court, that same interpretation if you were to line those two sections of the constitution up next to each other, could very well have been made and electors might have even had a much higher threshold than the one that ultimately came out of that decision, had there been no change in the constitution yet, still a challenge taken place at the court level.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Dierks, Schimek, Vrtiska, Bernard-Stevens, Witek, Wesely and Hall.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I don't know what the answer is on the legal question or whether the two-tier system would be approved by the courts or not, but it's one of those things that's close enough and important enough that I'm willing to give it a shot and to support the committee amendments because I think if we don't give it a shot, probably the initiative and referendum process as we know it is going to be destroyed one way or another. It will either be destroyed because the number of signatures will be increased unreasonably for volunteers in order to prevent an excess of paid initiatives and referendums. Almost any way you look at