

with the Secretary or State. So they pressed for the public hearings to be held after the signatures are collected and contribute to the education of the public at that time right before the election. So with that, I would simply say I think Senator Beutler is going to have a few minor amendments to the bill and I also have one further amendment to the bill. With that, I would simply urge the passage of 337.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Mr. Clerk, there's an amendment.

CLERK: Madam President, the first amendment I have is by Senator Schimek. Senator, I have AM0900. That is found on page 1057 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek to open on her amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I'll try to be brief with this amendment. I don't know if there will be any discussion on it or not. The one part of the amendment adds a severability clause to the bill and the reason for that is that there are some that feel that by requiring petitioners to be registered to vote one month before actually circulating petitions could be suspect. And, of course, the other argument is it is in the state's interest to do this for prevention of fraud. But at least by adding the severability clause in there, if anything would come up regarding that issue, the rest of the bill would be intact. Then the other change would simply make this bill operative and applicable to any petitions that are filed on or after the effective date of the act which, of course, would be some time in September. There are a few petition drives out there that have already been initiated. This would not apply to them. The provisions of this act would not apply to anything that has already been initiated. With that, I would simply urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. The Chair recognizes Senator Bernard-Stevens to speak to the Schimek amendment to LB 337. Are there any other speakers to the Schimek amendment? Seeing none, Senator Schimek, do you wish to close? Senator Schimek, do you wish to close?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. No, Madam President.