

there?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right, and we need to amend that to allow for a delay for the meeting of one legislative session if we wanted to do this process.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay, and whether that's a good policy or not, I assume others will talk about that but I guess I'm more concerned about the legalities of doing so. You, in effect, change the balance to allow the Legislature to delay, they'd have an overriding constitutional power if we could change the Constitution correctly to delay the vote for a year.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: In effect, a year I suppose.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah, it would be...you would have to change the Constitution in order to give the Legislature that power. It does not currently have it.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: So conceptually, I guess I'll listen to whether that is good policy. My guess is that by delaying them in effect you can defeat them by...if a petition is done with a particular fervor, if you can delay them for a year, you sort of take the motivation out for a year. It may be a delay that that might be good if you're trying to remove passion from an issue. If there is a real crisis that the voters feel, that may inflame them even more and cause the Legislature some problems, so I guess I'm going to listen for some others on how they'd balance that, but at least I think, Senator Schimek, what you were getting to is that this would delay for a year. Obviously, I think Senator Beutler knows and has stated correctly that it's really unconstitutional at this point in time, but that conceptually this is something that he is presenting and is an option for us to look at in the future. With that, obviously I will not vote for the amendment as I think it would make the bill unconstitutional. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I rise against this amendment from Senator Beutler. We discussed this amendment and I'm not sure if it was an amendment. I think Senator Beutler put in a bill on this in our Government