

this, but the amendment is, basically, on page 1253 of the Journal, at the very bottom of the page it begins. Now once you get there, let me point out to you one paragraph that was deleted from the amendment as finally filed, and as before you at this moment. Again, the entire amendment begins on page 1253 at the bottom, but if you would turn to page 1256, lines 14 through 17, the first lines 14 through 17 have been deleted. Okay, lines 14 through 17 on page 1256 have been deleted. If you would cross out those lines, then what you have before you at the moment is the amendment that begins on page 1253. Let me just say to you at the beginning that my commitment to constituents, campaign commitments to my constituents on this matter was that I would vote basically to restore, to restore the number of signatures required on these matters to what existed before the court made its interpretation, that is to the law that existed before all of this really began that has brought us to this moment. And then along comes Senator Schimek and her committee, and the two-tier system, and the consideration of paid circulators or it says unpaid circulators, and I thought all that made a lot of sense, and that we ought to get a court's interpretation as to whether we could treat those two types of petitions differently, and so I went along with and voted for the compromise that we adopted on General File. However, I still felt, personally, uncomfortable about that in the sense that I don't think I quite met what my...what the expectation of my constituents were to return the system to what it was before, notwithstanding that it would have been the system as before under the...ultimately under the...what was outlined by Senator Schimek. And so what this amendment purports to do is, basically, retain everything except switch things around in one important respect, and that is, it would say what goes into effect immediately is the original system, that is, the 10 percent, 7 percent, 5 percent system that we thought existed before the court made that interpretation. And then with respect to the two-tier system, it then says that that will go into effect January 1st of 1999. So that with respect to the immediate election cycle, two-year cycle, following November of 1996, when presumably these matters would be approved by the people of the state at a general election, for that first two-year cycle, things would be restored to the way they were originally. And then for the next cycle, the two-tier system would go into effect. And it is my hope and my belief that prior to that system going into effect or very early on so as not to disrupt any ongoing petitions, that it will be possible to get a declaratory judgment action on that matter,