

particular piece of legislation work as it was originally intended and at that time we would have then a vote by the Supreme Court or a decision by the Supreme Court telling us whether the two-tier system is constitutional. I don't think that's too much to ask and I would urge that you support this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President...Mr. President and members of the body, excuse me, Mr. President. I would like to rise in opposition to this amendment and I feel strongly about the opposition for several reasons. First of all, I think there already has been a compromise that has been worked out on this bill. One of the things that I think that Senator Dierks and I have both agreed on all along is that we wanted to preserve the petition process for the volunteer petition circulators and I think LR 6CA as it now stands does that. No matter whether the Supreme Court says that LR 22CA portion of the bill is constitutional or not, the numbers stay the same for the volunteer circulators. So I really don't see the need for this amendment. I don't see what the benefit is in prolonging the agony if you will. Let's get it over with, let's find out what the court says about it and in the meanwhile I think that we have put together a bill that the petitioners are not going to be harmed. And, I mean, maybe somebody can point out to me the illogic of my thinking at this point. There may be something I'm not considering, but I think that we've taken care of those contingencies with the bill as it is now, amended and standing on Select File. What concerns me is that we are just putting off the decision and leaving everybody really kind of in a quandary for the next four years and I don't see a reason to do that. I think it can be taken care of expeditiously. I've been told by people who are, if not legal scholars, at least understand the law and the court system, and that if this bill is put on the ballot and it passes, that a declaratory judgment can be asked for immediately and that the Attorney General would more than likely want to test it in court immediately and that we would have some answers soon. I just don't understand the reason for putting off this decision and so I will listen carefully, but unless I hear something that is a new factor in this, I would strongly oppose this. I think we have a bill that's in good shape, that has good support across the floor and I would like to see it keep moving along. Thank you.