

if they were offered in tandem as a group, it's very likely that they might pass. I don't know that there's any...if there was any discussion to that end yesterday. I believe that amendment alone might be enough to, with its adoption, to move LR 6 over to Final Reading. The proposed amendment that Senator Dierks offers I don't think does anything to harm the proposal, but I don't think it does anything to strengthen it either. So I guess I stand in ambivalence toward the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm sorry, I missed part of that exchange between Senator Dierks and Senator Hall, and I know that Senator Hall just started out with the same question I was going to ask Senator Dierks, and what does this do for the...I mean what does this accomplish?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, I understand it's not the stated intent of LR 6CA to drop this...allow this to happen, but I just am trying to guarantee at this point that it won't.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: But what scenario can you dream up that it would happen? I mean I'm having trouble following. Let's just say that the worst case scenario is the court declared the bifurcated system unconstitutional and throughout that part of it you'd still be left with really the guts of your bill, 6CA, how would that impact the whole system? I...

SENATOR DIERKS: What would happen, Senator Schimek, if the court would throw out that entire section?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, then you'd still be left with what's in the constitution right now, right?

SENATOR DIERKS: But didn't you eliminate that other part of the...that other section of the constitution with the new section?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: No, because you still have an existing section in there, don't you?

SENATOR DIERKS: You have what?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: You still have the existing section in there.