

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ... (inaudible) six months, in one month they were able to do the term limit drive, six months seems like a fairly reasonable period, one month... I mean one year, that's not so bad either, at least there's some limit. I'm willing to live with either one, I prefer the six months, obviously I think that is fair. But I'd ask you to put some limitation on this. And if Senator Beutler wants to make it at a point closer or at a different point in time, we can work on that, that's no problem, willing to consider that.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Bernard-Stevens, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: To withdraw the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The amendment is withdrawn. We're back to the underlying Wesely amendment. Senator Schimek, to address the Wesely amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I was rising to support the Bernard-Stevens amendment as I think that was a better choice than the Wesely amendment as originally drafted. I have just been doing some investigation, and I do believe, according to the statutes, that there are some limitations written into the statutes. For instance, one of the things that you have to do before you can gather any signatures on a petition is you have to file that with the Secretary of State. Any petition signatures gathered before that are not valid. So that's the first step is filing with the Secretary of State. And it says that initiative petitions, of course, have to be filed four months prior to the general election, once you have got the signatures on it. But it also says that when... the statutes say, 32-1407, that when a copy of the form of any initiative petition is filed with the Secretary of State prior to obtaining signatures, the issue presented by such petition shall be placed before... oh, before the voters of the next election. Then it goes on to say, all signed initiative petitions shall become invalid on the date of the first general election occurring at least four months after the date on which the copy of the form is filed with the Secretary of State. So... so it is about a 20-month period of time, really. There is some... there are some parameters to the petition filing and the