

using the language. I could have proposed, I suppose, using the language of regulate, and no, I don't think the Legislature ought to be able to do that. But I think the Legislature ought to have the power to enact general laws if the Legislature deems necessary to carry out the provisions with respect to initiative and referendum. It would make it clear that some of these things we've been talking about could be done via legislative action, and we would not, every time we pass legislation relating to initiative and referendum, be sitting on egg shells, waiting for somebody to challenge it in court and waiting to see whether the Supreme Court feels that the action we took facilitated the action. So that's what the amendment does. I would respond to questions that you might have. It really is not designed to get into this whole issue of more signatures or fewer signatures, bifurcated system or nonbifurcated system, it's really to get into the area of making sure that the Legislature does have the authority that it needs to pass the legislation that we feel we need to pass in order to carry out these provisions relating to referendum and initiative. I would urge your support of the amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Wesely, on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I was disappointed in the vote on Senator Beutler's amendment, but in light of this amendment it makes sense. If there's a concern about, you know a lot of these things ought not be in the constitution and restricting us, because you're right, I mean the situation could be there where you end up adopting something and finding out that the consequences aren't always well known. This allows us to do something along the line Senator Beutler is talking about, or something else that may come up, and should there be a problem you can legislatively make an adjustment. This is probably the better course of action. And so I do commend Senator Withem for putting it forward, and this allows us the chance to move forward in a constructive way and then respond to any problems or concerns that arise in the future without having to go through all this every time. So I think this is a great amendment, I hope you'll support it.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Anyone else care to speak to the Withem amendment? Seeing none, Senator Withem, to close.