

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I wanted to make sure I got a...fairly early on in the debate and talk just a second about the constitutional amendment. And then Senator Schimek did a good job of separating the two issues. The amendment itself, the resolution itself is an amendment to reduce the length of the legislative session. And I want to make sure that that does not get lost in the debate. Senator Schimek...with that, I'll move to the debate on the Schimek amendment. This is a constitutional amendment. This is not a statute. Because it is a constitutional amendment the question of putting a limitation on the number of bills into the constitution could...we have to be careful in doing that, putting it into the constitution rather than into a statute or into our rules, which we do allow for some flexibility. I've always had a question on introduction of bills whether we should limit that. And I've not been a fan of limiting introduction of bills for this reason, and that is that if we put limits on the introduction of bills we will see all those same ideas that would have bills, would have had public hearings, and would have had some public discourse become amendments to bills where there is no public discourse, where the public does not have an opportunity to come in and tell us the pros and cons of those. And I think it's more important, even though we will get criticized and it will...it will come as a surprise to people that legislatures get criticized. But we will continue to get criticized for introducing that number of bills, but I think it's something that we have to do, to keep doing those as bills rather than amendments. There's a lot of things, I think, we know how we feel if something...if an amendment gets put on that has not had a public hearing. Generally, as members we don't like that, even though we may even support the particular concept. But we think the public has a right to see that and a right to be heard on that. It's...it is something that I think some of the problems Senator Schimek talks about I think are all there. It's hard to argue that those problems are there with the volume and all that. But the question is, what's the balance of that? What's the down side of limiting introduction of bills? Remember, this has to go hand-in-hand with our germaneness, our one substance which is also constitutional. We have to have that one subject matter in the bill, so it's also combining those two, could limit the ability to handle the business that need to get handled on the floor. So, I do appreciate having discussion of this, I think it's something