

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 17, 1999 LR 14

election. So I'm going to reserve absolute final judgment until I get an answer back from legal counsel, but I think this is probably a proper amendment that Senator Chambers is going to introduce.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. Clerk, is there an amendment?

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend. (FA23 is found on page 596 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, this amendment that I'm offering, in a sense, does not even go to what is being proposed by LR 14CA, but rather it is based on my concept of what a constitution should be. A constitution is not a statute. I refer to statutes as being made from concrete and periodically if ness...it's there as long as it's there, but you can break it up and remove it by any Legislature during any legislative session, even a special session. The constitution, on the other hand, must be elastic. It should be general. It should be general enough to cover the issue that is to be addressed, but it should not be so loose and vague as to have no meaning that reasonable people can determine. So when I use the term "general", I don't mean loose, ambiguous, confusing, without order and, in fact, chaotic. That's not what I mean. So if you adopt this amendment that I'm offering, on page 2, in line 6, we would strike the words "of the same political party status". I don't even know if it ought to be in the constitution that the person be a registered voter. We should just make a general statement in the constitution to make it clear that the person who is to be Lieutenant Governor will be selected by the person running for Governor. And I don't know how I will ultimately vote on legislation, but the less we can put in the constitution while saying what it is we want to cover the better it will be. I want Senator Schrock to know that this is not an attempt to undermine his proposal, and he had said already that if I wanted to offer this amendment it would not be troubling to him. And I think if you consider it, you will see that it is the course we ought to pursue, especially in view of the fact that the