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Transcriber's Office

April 13, 1999 LB 729

return the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM PRESIDING

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, and, Senator Quandahl, yes, I did expect to hear from you today and appreciate your input into this issue because we did have a good discussion in committee about it. I would...I would disagree with your interpretation but you're the attorney and I'm not. So, you know, who is to say who is right and who is wrong here. I think what this bill does is it does not take anything away from the judiciary. It certainly...it simply sets up a process which triggers the ability then of the judiciary to use its power in the manner in which it would normally use its power but just a little bit earlier, and to make its interpretation. It also takes nothing away from the people. The people still have the ability to put issues on the ballot. One of the things that we did several years ago, which I think could and should have been helpful to those who were circulating initiative petitions then, and I think has been helpful, is we allowed the...or asked that the Revisor of Statutes look at all the petitions before they are actually formally handed back to the petitioners to go gather signatures. And part of the reason was we were seeing petitions come in which were I think blatantly const...unconstitutional. Any layperson could understand that some of these were going to have constitutional problems, so we did that, but there's nothing that demands that a petition circulator takes the suggestions of the Revisor of Statutes. Some do and some don't. But to me, it seems like the excessive amounts of money that are being spent on these petition drives could be...could be saved and some of the ill-feelings of the public could be prevented by letting the public know ahead of time whether a matter was constitutional or not. But I do appreciate your thoughts on this, and I'm not saying you're totally wrong. I just happen to disagree with you on this one. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Chambers.