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election and the filing of the petition, it requires a space of eight months. And all this amendment does is to make the eight months nine months, in other words it adds one more month. And the reason for that is twofold, first of all, you may recall the rationale for extending the time between the election and the filing of the petition is so that the public can be informed, and there's a better public debate about what is going to come before the people in November. So that's one of the main reasons. The other main reason and of interest to me is the fact that if you add another month then, instead of having to file in March, you'd have to file in February. And if you do that, that would give the Secretary of State time to count petition signatures and the Legislature itself would know whether there was going to be a petition on the ballot before we are out of session. That, to me, is very, very valuable because it will afford us an opportunity that we've never had before, and that is, instead of being bushwhacked on petitions, we'll know what's coming, and maybe we'll have suggestions to the people, either in form of statute changes, or in form of constitutional amendments that are more constructive or add to the constructiveness of the situation. So that's basically all the amendment does. Again, it doesn't deal or have any effect upon the two vote portion of the amendment, which is a separate constitutional proposal under this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. On the Beutler amendment, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Beutler, I confess I haven't looked at this part of the amendment prior to this morning. And so I'm still putting my thoughts together. But one of the things that I liked about the eight month provision was the fact that it was the same time then as candidates' filing deadline and easy to remember. And I just thought it made a lot of sense to put it at that time. And I am very sorry, I missed your explanation of why you want it to be nine months, if you could explain that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure. In a short legislative session, if it's eight months, that means it's mid-March sometimes,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Right.