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SENATOR BEUTLER: ...before it's filed. And by the time the signatures are counted, in a short session, which will be mid-April,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: April.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...we may well be out of session. And it just seemed to me that it would be extremely helpful to the Legislature to move that back one month, so that we would have a better idea of what is actually happening and whether there will actually be a petition on the ballot. And that will give us an opportunity to react, whereas the way the law is now, we probably will have no opportunity to react, or it will be a very, very narrow window.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Presumably, though, no matter which month it was, we would have some advance notice that this petition drive was going to be happening, presumably. Maybe not.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, as you recall, when LB 413 came up, we essentially were given no advance notice of the actual formation of the petition language. Obviously, that had been done far in advance of the end of our legislative session, but we had no notice of it whatsoever. Then the session ended, and then all of a sudden it was full steam ahead for the petition drive people. And to me that's bushwhacking the Legislature. And if you were interested in the best public policy, I think you would create a situation where both the Legislature and those who are interested in a petition drive have an opportunity to reflect upon a question, to act upon it, and to suggest to the public what in their respective opinions makes the most sense. And I'm just fearful that we would not have quite enough time to do that, if it were eight months whereas, if it were nine months, we clearly would have time to do that.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: This amendment, however, as I recall, is unlike the bill that you introduced that would call for the Legislature to examine an issue and make some changes or provide an alternative. This...we won't really affirmatively act on such a filing, one way or the other.