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LR 18

signatures in Nebraska than you would have in most states of the Union. We would still have a longer time period for gathering signatures.

SENATOR DIERKS: But it would be...it would be less time than is currently available.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It would be one month less time with this amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Um-huh.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Any further discussion on the Beutler amendment? Seeing none, Senator Beutler, recognize you to close on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just to repeat, for those who may not have been here. This amendment has, again, nothing to do with the double vote provisions in the bill because those are a separate constitutional amendment, and I know that's an area of concern for some people. This amendment has to do with part two of CA18, which has only one provision, and will go to the people as a separate constitutional proposal, and that proposal, as in the green copy, is to give...is to require effectively for the petitions to be filed eight months in advance of the election, as opposed to the current law of four months. With my amendment you would make that "eight" months "nine" months. It would have two very positive effects, in my opinion, one would be to extend the period of debate on the proposition, that is, you would know earlier, the people of the state would know earlier that it's on the ballot, and the discussion can begin. And the longer that discussion is, I think we would all agree, the better off we're likely to be. And the other advantage of this amendment, from my perspective, is that it gives this Legislature, who is the elected body of the people, an opportunity, while we're still in session, to take a look at whatever petition is filed, and it gives us an opportunity to act, if we so choose. And I think that only improves the situation for the public, because then they would have, not just the perspective of any particular special interest group that is filing an initiative petition,