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necessary to carry out contractual obligations in previously issued bonds or notes. Section 14-405, which is applicable to cities of the metropolitan class, and first, second class and villages, allow municipalities to amend, supplement, change, modify or repeal zoning regulations, restrictions and boundaries, and this is the critical part. If a protest is filed against such a measure, it does not become effective except on a supermajority vote of the governing body. Because these statutes provide for these zoning measures to be subject to a protest procedure, LB 582 would amend the statutes to exempt them from referendum and limited referendum. A couple of important points that were brought out at the committee hearing is that presently the city can wait 12 months and reverse the results of a referendum, so it's not exactly a permanent answer. At the same time when the existing language was written, zoning was discussed and nobody really thought zoning would be subject to referendum. In addition to that, of course, as you know, cities can't spend dollars, public dollars, on a campaign issue so it is possible that if a refer...if a zoning regs...if the zoning regs are not exempted from referendum, a developer could spend lots of dollars to get spot zoning changes, which could wreak havoc with comprehensive plans. And I think this is...this measure was brought to us by the League of Municipalities and I think the feeling is that nobody has really had a serious problem with these yet, but it's very conceivable and especially in this day and age, with all the kinds of development that we have going on. The bill did...was heard on February 25th and it did advance from the committee with six votes. One was present and not voting, and one was absent. And there are committee amendments filed to the bill, Senator. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. As Chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, you are recognized to open on your committee amendments. (AM0560, Legislative Journal page 793, First Session, 1999.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, the committee amendment simply adds personnel issues to this bill and says that they, too, would be excluded from referendum. And this would be like personnel policy, the salaries, benefits, hirings, promotion, demotion or termination of personnel, and