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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. You know, Senator Chambers, last year when we were discussing bracketing this motion, you talked about the story of the sultan and the old man who wanted to make a horse fly, and people wondered why he would do this, because he was sort of putting himself in jeopardy with the sultan. And I think your...the rest of the story was that the old man figured that (one), either he would die before all of this came to...or the sultan would die, or the horse would die, or the horse would fly. And I want to say here today that I think the old man is still here, the sultan is still alive and well. This bill...this bill, this horse is either dead or it's going to fly. And I think that's what we're here to find out today. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to talk to you about AM2005. With this amendment I hope to resolve any lingering doubts about the separation of powers question that may remain after last year's Select File debate. In thinking about the matter over the interim, I came to the conclusion that the only way to eliminate the separation of powers concern was to not give the Secretary of State any new duties that might trigger those concerns. And, if you recall, there was an Attorney General's Opinion that said, if we did give the Secretary of State these powers, it would be this violation. As a result, AM2005 does become the bill. You will see as you review the amendment that it does not expand the Secretary of State's duties at all. Whatever powers and duties the Secretary of State had prior to the introduction of LB 729 are exactly the same powers and duties that he has now, no more, no less. With AM2005 we can put to rest our concerns that our actions on AM2005 will violate the separation of powers clause, they will not. Now, with that said, the question becomes, what does AM2005 do? Let me refresh your memory by beginning with a word on initiative and referendum petition procedure. Signed initiative petitions are filed with the Secretary of State at least four months prior to the date of the election at which the proposed law or constitutional amendment will be voted on; that's usually around the first...around the fourth of July, somewhere in that vicinity. Since general elections are in November, this usually means that this is what happens. A process currently exists in statute that permits any resident, I want you to listen carefully, it currently exists in statute that permits any resident to file a lawsuit in the District Court of Lancaster