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FLOOR DEBATE

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than the Buckley case. If we pass LB 444, government officials will have a clear direction as to the petition process for the state of Nebraska. And until we pass a bill similar to LB 444 or this bill, our local governments are at risk of litigation any time they have a recall election, no matter what course they take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Committee amendments, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, there are committee amendments, as offered by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This amendment is anathema to me. This amendment is a I'd rather fall on my sword than vote for this amendment. This amendment is a I'd rather eat licorice than vote for this amendment. This amendment is I'd rather be in session all year-round than vote for this amendment. But I think the responsible thing to do is to vote for this amendment, and the reason is, which Senator Erdman, I almost said Senator Buckley, Senator Erdman has just mentioned to you, is the Buckley decision, which basically says that we have to give up our idea that petition circulators must be registered voters. And so the amendment, the committee amendment, does this not only for recall elections but for all other...or recall petitions, but for all other kinds of petitions that are circulated in Nebraska. I think it's terrible public policy, but unfortunately it's the responsible thing to do now that the courts have ruled on it. And so I would encourage you all to adopt the committee amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President and members of the body, could I ask Senator Schimek a question of her wonderful amendment?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Schimek, would you yield, please?