

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 8, 2004 LR 14

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Are you recognizing me to speak on the amendment, Mr. President?

SPEAKER BROMM: I am. (FA1549, Legislative Journal page 927.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Oh! Thank you. I appreciate that. Ladies and gentlemen, the amendment is before you. It is as I explained it earlier. And I know there are some people on this floor that are wondering why we didn't go with three, or why we didn't go with four, or even some are wondering why we didn't go with one, and that's...that is the dilemma. The dilemma was that if we went to one we would definitely lose about six people from the vote for cloture. If we went to three, we would lose people on the vote for cloture. And the number two seemed to be the spot that the greatest number of people could agree on that they could feel comfortable with. And I think that, you know, I could go with one, I could go with two, I could go with three, I could even go up to eight. Personally, where I'd be, I'd be at one, that's where I'd be, and I've said that many times on this floor. But you don't always get what you would like. This is a democratic process. There are 49 of us in here with 49 different ideas, and at some point we have to either compromise or kiss the bill good-bye. And I haven't been willing to do that up until this point, but if you tell us on this vote on this bill that there aren't...there isn't enough will to do something to put something on the ballot as a alternative to those petitions that are going to be on the ballot, then I'll have to throw up my hands and say it just can't be done. We got to...we just got to let it go and hope that that's the end of it. But frankly, I don't think that will be the end of it and, frankly, I think the whole thing is worrisome. If you look at the amendments that are out there, the petitions that are out there, and I'm trying to pull them out of my notebook right now because, well, I want you to know what these proposed amendments say, and you can get the language yourself from the Secretary of State's Office. The first amendment, which is a constitutional amendment, says: This section shall not apply to laws enacted by people by initiative measures by which the people may contemporaneously, with the adoption of this section or at any time thereafter, provide for the authorization, operation,