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it.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Schimek, would you yield?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Schimek,...and I apologize; I'm no longer on the committee, and perhaps should have looked at some of the transcripts of the committee hearing. But I do have some concerns. And I know that you pursued the constitutional amendment avenue before this effort. Can you say again why a statutory change can complete this, as opposed to a constitutional amendment?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you for the question, Senator Smith. As a matter of fact, that has been an ongoing discussion. And there have been several court cases which have spoken to that very issue. And one of them Senator Chambers just talked about a little bit ago, Ways v. Shively, in which the court basically said, yes, the Legislature can cure this through legislation. And there's another court case, too, that I won't go into in detail. But I have in my possession a couple of very, I think, authority kind of opinions. One is from a College of Law professor at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. His name is Professor John Lenich. And he writes to say that...see if I can find the exact words. He says that...and I'm not going to read the whole thing; there's a very lengthy letter from him. He says that the Legislature has delegated the Legislature's power to restore the right to vote by authorizing the board to issue writs of discharge. And he understands that the board has refused to exercise the power the Legislature has delegated to it. He doesn't know why. In any event, if the Legislature repealed the delegation of its powers to the board, the board would lack any authority to restore the right to vote to convicted felons, unless, of course, it granted them a pardon, in which case all of their rights would be restored. In conclusion, I support what you're trying to do through LB 53. I believe that it is permissible as a matter of constitutional law, and justifiable as a matter of public policy. And then he encourages us to think about the waiting period in the bill. He doesn't happen to think two years is