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SENATOR SCHIMEK: It is, but it's a very long process, and it is sometimes costly. You have to hire an attorney. And I believe that at least in 50 percent of the time, it's not successful. It gets lumped in with everything else, frankly.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. And I realize I'm out of time. So thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Time. Senator Brown, you're recognized.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I standing in support of this bill and of the amendment. And it is a change of position for me. After first hearing the bill, and believing that it was a real change in position for us to take, that...I assumed that everyone understood that felons did not have the right to vote. When you begin researching what the implications are, what other states are doing, I have changed in But I would address one of the concerns that my attitude. He talked about a balancing act. Senator Smith raised. believe that the balancing act is in the form of the amendment that you have before you, because we should assume that a person who has completed their debt to society has the right to participate in society. And as Senator Schimek pointed out, the Supreme Court has ruled that voting is a civil right. And so the process in Nebraska...Nebraska is one of six states that does not allow automatic restoration. Those states tend to be southern states. These laws came into being, in many cases, after the Civil War, to restrict black Americans' rights to And so the...some of the southern states have maintained vote. these laws. There are two states, Iowa and Nebraska, who also have the laws. But we...in this amendment we are proposing a two-year window, so that if the felon reoffends during that two-year period, then they will not be eligible to vote. And so I do think that we are proposing a moderate approach that still allows people to...who have made changes in their lives, to move forward with those changes. And that's the reason I'm in support of the bill. I'm also in support of the amendment. And I would yield some time to Senator Smith if he wants to continue with the discussion with Senator Schimek.