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LR 12

problem. The problem, as I see it, without really getting into the amendment itself, is, there...it does confuse the issue, vote-wise, for us. I don't think this is the time to do it. Because if we put this on here, there may be some people who will not be able to support the bill because they don't think that we should do this. And I don't think it brings votes to the bill, is what I'm saying. And I think this was a bill that's still in committee. The committee could put it out tomorrow. We could take it up next year at the beginning of the session, and we could deal with it separately. I think it's a separate issue, and it needs to be dealt with separately. There's plenty of time in next year's session to put this on the general election ballot. And so again, I would ask you not to support the Beutler amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Beutler, there are no further lights on. I recognize you to close on AM1702 to LR 12CA.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I must admit I feel a bit of confusion. My sense of the matter is that your lack of questions into the detail of the amendment indicates that there is not a general interest in dealing with that at this particular point in time. On the other hand, I don't know that to be the case, since a couple of people were supportive. So I think I will let it go to a vote, and again encourage you to do what I'm absolutely certain every one of you believes in your mind is true, that this has to come out of the constitution someday if we're ever going to get this straight, if we're ever going to appropriately compensate people for what they should be doing down here, for the time they should be putting in, for the time that the people would want them to put in. So with that, I would emphasize again that this does nothing to what you already have in the bill. The pay raise proposition, at \$21,000 with the CPI, with this amendment, it would still go on the ballot in the spring. This one, the commission proposition that I'm putting to you, would not be on the same ballot. It would come on a subsequent ballot, so it would be entirely separate. There wouldn't even be any discussion of it until you approach that particular election cycle. So I think that we can have it both ways. We can do