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papers. And this Legislature did that just a few years ago, to improve the recall process. With the committee amendment, the reasons for which a recall may be sought are limited to malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance. And those three reasons are defined in the bill. The principal circulator or circulators must allege the grounds of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office when submitting the affidavit with the filing clerk. With the committee amendment, the notification of the official is the same as current law, but the committee amendment gives the official the option either to file within 20 days a defense statement, as is allowed now, or to file suit in district court to determine whether the allegations in the statement show, by a preponderance of the evidence, the grounds for malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office. If grounds are found to exist by the court, the individual whose removal is sought may submit a defense statement within 20 days after receiving the notice of the decision. After receipt of the defense statement or the expiration of the 20-day period, if no defense statement is filed, the filing clerk will issue the petition papers to the principal circulator or circulators. If grounds are found not to exist, the filing clerk will not issue petition papers. So what this does to the process is it clearly defines for what an elected official can be recalled, and gives that elected official an additional option, if there is a petition that is filed, the additional option is to go to district court and to ask the district court to show or to determine whether there really is a preponderance of evidence for this petition that's taking out. The Government Committee has really looked at this issue for a long time, and what we know from newspaper stories and anecdotal stories from over the years is that oftentimes recalls are done for very petty reasons, and oftentimes the elected official is put on the spot publicly, accused of all kinds of things, of which most of them are simply voting the wrong way. And it tears communities apart. It means that people are less likely to run for elected office, knowing that for any reason under the sun they can be subjected to a recall. So I think the committee felt pretty strongly that Senator Mines was on the right track when he brought the amendment. It's actually his amendment, although we worked with him and helped guide him in crafting the amendment. So Mr. President, I would like to ask that the rest of my time