

was never guaranteed that they were going to get the signatures get on the ballot so I'm not sure that the situation is such that we need to feel that we have to put back in place exactly what was there before the court ruling. Now I have a lot of concerns about the petition process and the dynamic that has changed over the years and I'm going to talk about that when we get to the main line bill. But again, my point is that this committee amendment is the one opportunity I've seen to deal with paid petition circulators. We haven't found any other solutions to that problem. We haven't found any other ways to deal with it. Yes, there may be a constitutional question, I'm not sure if this is the answer, but at least it gives us a chance to address that issue and it's one that I think needs to be addressed and I don't know how much...Mr. Speaker, how much more time do I have?

SPEAKER WITHEM: You have about two minutes.

SENATOR WESELY: I'd give the rest of it to Senator Schimek.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I would like to, first of all, thank you for your thoughts and say that I, too, am supporting the committee amendment and I would just like to go back a minute and tell you that the task force which recommended one of the provisions that has been incorporated into this bill felt very strongly that they wanted to encourage volunteer circulators, and I want to make that crystal clear. They wanted to encourage volunteer circulators. And if you will look at the handout sheet that I have given you, you will see what the current numbers are for petitions as a result of the court decision, and if you'll look at the initiative for constitutional amendment you'll see that the current numbers are 91,849, but if you look over to the right-hand column you'll see that LR 22CA sets that number at 55,160.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The bonus given to volunteer circulators makes that the net effect. For paid circulators it would take 110,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot. So the task force felt very strongly about volunteer circulators and they also felt that there needed to be some way to distinguish between volunteer efforts and the efforts of paid circulators, hence,