

four through...four months after such petition has been filed for petitions filed before January 2, 1999 and nine months after such petition has been.... Would you go through your explanation real briefly again...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...what you're trying to do here, now that I've got it on my desk.

SENATOR BEUTLER: With respect to initiatives, it basically says that starting on January 2, 1999, for all petitions filed on and after that date they will be required to be filed nine months before the date of the election as opposed to the current rule of four months before the date of the election. So that the next election cycle, after this constitutional amendment is adopted, is not affected. That will still have the four-month requirement. But starting two years off,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, and...and...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...not two years off, January 2, 1999, starting in the next election cycle there would be a nine-month requirement, which means the petitions would have to be filed in February, March...which means the Legislature...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And again your reasoning on that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The reasoning basically is that then in February the Legislature will know, one, that the exact language of initiative petition; and it will know, two, that sufficient signatures have been acquired on that petition and that it will be on the ballot in November; and the Legislature then will have the opportunity, will have time enough to suggest, if they want to suggest, an alternative proposition...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...for the ballot...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, but the up shot of it is, Senator Beutler, you're shortening the process for gathering signatures by four months, is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: By five months,...