

SPEAKER WITHEM: Would merely urge the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Withem. You've heard the close. Question is the adoption of the Withem amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Withem's amendment.

SENATOR HALL: The Withem amendment is adopted. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR HALL: Back to the motion to advance to E & R for engrossing. Senator Wesely, on that motion.

SENATOR WESELY: I know the time has come for a decision. I'm going to rise again and express opposition to the amendment, to the constitutional amendment. As I've talked before, I think that the...clearly there are petition drives being talked about that we were able to see that paid petition circulators, on the term limits, were within one month able to achieve the higher level of signatures, far above that. I think that the current level of signatures is not a barrier that needs us to address it with a further constitutional amendment. This lowers it far too low, in my view, to amend the constitution, makes it too easy. I hope that Senator Bohlke and others who have other amendments can take a look at those on Final Reading. But I continue to feel that making it too easy to amend the constitution causes long-term problems and I will continue to oppose the measure.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Beutler, on the motion to advance.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall, members of the Legislature, I guess it's time to vote and not to talk. So I just will be very brief. I hope we will advance the bill. I think it...Senator Dierks has gotten us on the right track in terms of restoring our credibility with the people. I think it's a good bill, I think we've had some good discussions on a couple of different ways to do things and some additional provisions, all of which have been dealt with, if not in the way each one of us would