

Turkish parliament votes on reforms

by UPI

ANKARA, Turkey - The Turkish people, not the parliament, would elect the country's president under a proposed constitutional amendment before the parliament.

The parliament has given the plan initial approval and was considering it for a final time Thursday, the BBC reported. President Ahmet Necdet Sezer could veto the amendment or delay the proposal until after the country's July general election.

The proposal grew out of a political deadlock over the nation's presidential election. Secularist politicians were opposed to the governing AK party's choice of candidate, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, fearing he had an Islamist agenda. Gul, the only candidate for the office, withdrew Wednesday from the election after a court invalidated his candidacy.

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