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LB 535

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have a question of Senator Newell.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell, will you respond?

SENATOR NEWELL: I will try.

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator Newell, has the committee, in these amendments or in amendments that are coming, addressed when funds can be raised or cannot be raised by a candidate? Is there any time limit on when an individual who is running for public office can begin to raise funds or when an incumbent member of the Legislature or any other office can raise funds?

SENATOR NEWELL: No, we do not address time frames. We only address when you have to file and that is...so, no. The answer to your question is no.

SENATOR CULLAN: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: A question of Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Senator Newell, do I understand you to say that campaign funds may be used for use in the office or just...would you repeat that?

SENATOR NEWELL: All right, presently, it is unclear whether the law allows campaign funds to be used to supplement the office and expenditures in the office.

SENATOR COPE: All right, how far are you going to go? How about living expenses?

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, we are not going that far. We are only going to supplement office expenses.

SENATOR COPE: That is an office expense if I were to be in Lincoln.

SENATOR NEWELL: Well here is the situation. Presently the law does not, is not clear whether you can do that. It may, in fact, be illegal to use that but if you wanted to send out a newsletter, okay, or something like that, it may be illegal for you to use campaign funds. Now this will allow you to send out a newsletter and use campaign funds.