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LB 134

halves of the Higgins amendment are commendable. I guess over the years I have not paid a lot of attention to the accountability law because they seemed rather obvious and I didn't expect that there were as many ways to try to get around the obvious reporting as there evidently is. But I would respond to Senator Wesely's objection to this amendment. I think they can be very clearly drawn. For instance, if...well, I will use myself instead of Senator Wesely, if I used my campaign aide in my campaign, how is Senator Kahle going to know whether he is on my time or is he on the state's time? This is the basic problem. If you have an employee, one of your state employees working in your campaign, who is going to be able to determine whether or not everything is on the up and up, whether, in fact, you are not using a state employee to further your campaign in really a blatant disregard of the accountability law? I think this is a very important amendment. I think the other half of the amendment is equally important and I would support both halves.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Beutler, did you wish to speak to this? Senator Dworak is next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, just a question of Senator Higgins.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Higgins, will you respond, please?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, sir.

SENATOR BEUTLER: There is some question in my mind, Senator Higgins, as to whether part one is constitutional or not, and not knowing about the amendment prior to today I haven't had a chance to look back and research that. Have you researched that? Do you have any....

SENATOR HIGGINS: No, but I'll put the severability clause on it, or it's already on there.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So you have no idea whether it's constitutional or not?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator, I'm not an attorney. When I write a bill I write it from my heart and I will leave it to the Attorney General to decide if it's constitutional or not.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, it would probably save us all a lot of time if occasionally you would check to see if..... (interruption).