

there are campaign committees which exceed in size by large numbers small businesses that we have here in the state. The difference being those small businesses pay roughly half of their income to the government, federal and state governments in taxes, whereas the campaign committees don't pay anything. And that's to make it clear that this part is simply broadening a tax base. With those two changes it does...or with that change, I think, it brings us more in line with the concerns raised by the Attorney General in his opinion. I would urge the adoption of AM4299.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. On the Lindsay amendment, Senator Chambers, you're first.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, having just had the amendment placed on my desk, I haven't had a chance to digest it. And maybe after I've had a chance to chew it up real well, even after I swallow it I won't be able to digest it. But I don't think it's a good idea. I don't think it's a good policy, and it's one of those attempts to, I think, limit campaign...let me ask Senator Lindsay a couple of direct questions. Senator Lindsay,...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is the purpose to eliminate, I meant limit the amount of campaign money raised, the amount spent, or both?

SENATOR LINDSAY: It...it...neither, it would not limit either one. It simply says that if we're going to spend excessive amounts, at some point we reach a level that it should be subject to taxation, and that deals on the...on the income side.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why would you want to tax this money that goes to campaigning for public office?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Because there are excessive amounts that are being spent,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are there any...

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...or being raised, I should say.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Excuse me. Are there any limits under the existing law as to what campaign contributions can be spent for?