

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then there is no limit.

SENATOR ASHFORD: There is a limit.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Ashford,...

SENATOR ASHFORD: Dammit! (Laughter.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And he's not going to take it anymore. (Laugh.) Then I will just state what I'm going to say, because I'm not going to get any cooperation from Senator Ashford. There is no limit on what a candidate can spend. The only place where there's a limit in the bill is when you get into this area of the aggregate that Senator Ashford mentioned. Now, Senator Ashford, what is the penalty if that aggregate is exceeded?

SENATOR ASHFORD: There is...Senator Baack, I don't know the penalty in the amendment, maybe Senator Baack does.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If, Senator Baack, if the aggregate is exceeded, what would the penalty be?

SPEAKER BAACK: It's the Class II misdemeanor, I believe.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. So that is a limit because there is a punishment if you go beyond the line that was drawn.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now that I've got somebody rational and calm, I'm going to ask you another question, Senator Baack. There really, under this bill, is no limit on what a candidate can spend, is there, or raise?

SPEAKER BAACK: No, there are incentives to encourage them not to, but there are no absolute limits, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And that's what I hope the public does understand that some of us on the floor recognized and stated that this bill is an expression of hope, that's all. And that's all that the Legislature can do in this area because of that cursed Constitution which restricts us, right, Senator Ashford? Is that right?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, that's right, Senator Chambers.