

SPEAKER WITHEM: Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Debate is ceased. Senator Bernard-Stevens, you are recognized. The call is raised.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Yeah, it is a tough vote. All policy questions are, and just a quick comment to Senator Vrtiska, I understand the dilemma that he is going through, he talked about a mousetrap and he is hoping we could catch some mice with it, but, unfortunately, our mousetrap has no cheese. There is no cheese in our trap, and there won't be any cheese in the mousetrap. Senator Hall can offer the...that we will General Fund it only once, and there won't be 25 votes for that. There just isn't a will by Nebraskans, and, Senator Bromm, I have listened to Nebraskans, and everyone complains about the cost of campaigning, but do you know what they complain most about? They tell me, they say, I don't want any of my tax monies to go into campaigns. That's where I...what I hear. I hear that a lot. And, Senator Preister, this, in essence, is a kill motion on the bill because Senator Beutler stated yesterday that when this amendment, and if this amendment is agreed to, that he would obviously not take this bill on. So we would be setting a precedent that we, in the Legislature, don't like the policy, and then we will have to introduce the bill in order to get it repealed and you'd have your hearing, but this is a kill motion. You don't have hearings on kill motions. It doesn't happen that way. This is nothing out of the ordinary. Anyone who is buying the argument that, gee, we shouldn't do this, we should have had a public hearing, if I were on the other side, that's the argument I'd use because that's the only argument I could find. I certainly wouldn't want to argue the policy, because it is a losing policy. We don't have the monies to fund it. We haven't found it in the past. We are not going to find it now. It is time to say that this is not the law that we need to do. A couple of comments I'd like to make just on the financing law itself. Remember what we are saying, we are saying that if somebody goes above the limit the opponent gets...all the affidavits are filed and if they've spent 25 percent of the limit that they have, would get state dollars, would get people's tax monies for the most part. No one has even talked about the fact that maybe the person who is going to break the limit is going to break the limit five days before the election.