

Legislature. This motion to reconsider will be considered this morning by the Legislature, and what will happen after...after I'm sure it is adopted is the bill itself, which has been moved to the bottom of General File, will more than likely not come up again this session, because there's so much more to do. But it will, next time it comes up, we will be discussing the Bernard-Stevens amendment to the bill. And this vote this morning that I'm asking now for is just to allow it to be reconsidered when the bill comes up again for consideration. So all this vote will be for this morning is on the motion to reconsider on whether you want to have the opportunity to reconsider the Bernard-Stevens amendment at the time that the bill comes up again. And this bill concerns the campaign finance that was adopted several years ago, before my time. And the Bernard-Stevens amendment strikes...

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Witek, let me interrupt just a minute. (Gavel.) Would the senators please keep their conversations down so we may hear the senator speak.

SENATOR WITEK: And this amendment of Senator Bernard-Stevens strikes all the original sections and all the amendments. In the entire time I've been here in the Legislature, in the three years that I've been here and been on the Government Committee this whole notion of public finance and campaign finance reform has been discussed. And believe me, I came in thinking that there was neces...it was necessary to have campaign finance reform of some sort, because I ran a campaign that was very low budget, especially for the area of Omaha and the State of Nebraska, and ran against an individual who had much more money to run her campaign. So I was very much aware on my own of the discrepancy in campaign finance. But I guess, at that time, thought you just have to work a little harder. And when I came here looking for some type of a change in that, I found that there had already been a change adopted the year before I came here, and that was to allow for public financing when the cost of campaigns went above, and there's a whole list of criteria for the cost of each campaign. And when the campaign went beyond that it would allow for public funds into that. At that time I said this, to me, was not the solution, was nonsense really, especially when you get out and talk to the general public about using public funds for financing campaigns. I think the general notion, the whole idea of that was passed in an election year, and I think people were begging or asking for campaign finance reform, aware of the discrepancies in the