

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 578

Chambers, you're recognized for discussion on the advancement of LB 578.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, Senator Beutler is going to drop off an amendment which he drafted, and I think his amendment is correctly drafted, but he thought my name should be on it, (laugh) so it will have my name on it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend by striking Section 2. (See FA39 on page 779 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, if Section 2 is stricken from the green copy, the law will remain as it is in terms of what the commission does with reference to a complaint. What will be left is Section 1 of the green copy. The new language in Section 1 says the following: "which contains sufficient information to indicate that there is at least a reasonable belief that a violation has occurred." That is a sound addition to the law. As pointed out by Senator Janssen, the commission no longer would have to embark upon any type of investigation, unless the complaint filed has enough information to justify a reasonable belief that there has been a violation. That would prevent me from saying, Senator Matt Connealy violated the Accountability and Disclosure Act during his campaign. That couldn't stand. If I said, Senator Connealy spent money in a way that violates the law, that couldn't stand. Now, if I didn't have specific figures, I could say, based on the reports that Senator Connealy made of the amount he took in, he would not have had enough money to put up these billboards, to get the television commercials, the radio commercials, and the newspaper advertisements that I saw as a part of his campaign. Therefore logic would indicate that he has violated the law by not adequately reporting the amount of money his campaign raised. That kind of complaint, although it does not give specific dollar amounts in terms of all aspects of the complaint, it shows that there is a reasonable basis for