

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 27, 2004 LB 762

effort to ensure equal spending cannot help but deter candidates from challenging entrenched incumbents. I have referred to the act descriptively as an incumbent protection act. In order to defeat an entrenched incumbent, an unknown challenger will need to devote resources to building name recognition and challenging the incumbent's record. Yet, under the act, the incumbent is guaranteed to receive funding to match that of the challenge. Although two courageous candidates for regent decided to take their lumps...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...in order to assert their beliefs that change was needed on that board, there is no telling how many other candidates decided not to undertake the challenge of unseating an incumbent given the advantages provided by the act. We are attempting with this act to micromanage politics in advance, and I respectfully suggest that just can't be done, and our attempts to do it will always result in unintended consequences, and I will discuss those as we proceed with the debate. Thank you for your time and your attention. I also want to acknowledge, in the time I have left, that I am grateful to Senator Schrock, who a long time ago prioritized this bill. Thank you, Senator Schrock.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. You've heard the reopening, advancement of LB 762. Mr. Clerk, priority bill...or motion, rather.

CLERK: Mr. President, I do have amendments and committee amendments, but I have a priority motion. Senator Beutler would move to bracket the bill until April 1, 2004.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on your motion to bracket.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, this debate today is an important one, because I'm hoping that you will make up your mind to do one thing or another, and that is to kill the whole Campaign Finance Reform Act and leave absolutely nothing in place as far as campaign finance is