

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 27, 2004 LB 762

public funds, not tax funds. But it's public funds that could have been used to alleviate tax problems.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Senator Schrock. I would disagree with that, because...and maybe I can ask Senator Beutler to answer the same question, because I think he can give us an even clearer explanation. But since he's currently engaged, I will say that from my understanding of the funds, the funds go into this based on a checkoff that people voluntarily do, and that has not really raised a large amount of money. But the bulk of the funds that go into providing this support comes from the actual candidates and the fines that have been levied because they have not lived up to the tenets of the act. When they have not filed reports on time, when they have violated any portion of it, and have been caught, and have been then subsequently fined, that money goes into the funds that, in the biggest case, Lorelee Byrd was able to harness \$75,000 of those funds. Those weren't General Fund dollars.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes, they were public funds. But all funds in every campaign are public funds, in the sense that they come from the public, if we're expanding that definition. These are not tax dollars that would necessarily go to other tax programs. These are funds from candidates. These are funds that were fines that go into the account. And it's not tax dollars that are funding these campaigns, and I think we need to be clear on that. I'm sure that Senator Beutler can give some additional information and clarity to the funding. And he certainly has tried to make it an improved piece of statute, but has been unsuccessful in that regard. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Brashear, followed by Senator Jensen and others.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Like to continue my detailed discussion of this act. And in this section of the presentation, I'd like to visit about the fact that I suggest that the act, the Campaign Finance Limitation Act, is technically flawed. I ask you to consider