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February 17, 2005 LB 242

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schimek, thank you very much. That was a good explanation of the committee amendment. I'd just add a couple of things. The lobbyist fees hasn't been changed since 1994, so it's been a while since they've been changed. This is...really started out as part of the effort to try to get our different agencies more cash funded where it was reasonable to attempt to do so. I think this is within the realm of reason. At least nobody opposed the bill. It raises an additional about \$65,000 a year, \$122,000 over two years. The Accountability Commission budget was approximately \$410,000 in General Funds in '03-04, so that will give you a little idea of the scale of things. It helps a little bit. Thank you.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Beutler and Senator Schimek. We're open for discussion on the committee amendments to LB 242. Senator Smith, you're recognized.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. If Senator Schimek would yield to some questions.

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Schimek, would you yield?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Certainly. Thank you.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Schimek, you mentioned that the word "campaigning" in Section 49-14,101.02, since the word is not defined under the act the term is replaced by the phrase "supporting or opposing," and to make that consistent with the other parts. And I'll probably get into this, I should have stated before now, but some of my concerns. But when we've entered, as a result of this attempt to regulate campaigns, we've entered a new era in American politics, whether it's at the state level, whether it's at the federal level. And "supporting or opposing" can be thrown out the window and now we have ads that might have a certain mission and objective, but the ads are out there to educate the public on someone's voting record. How is that affected when "supporting or opposing" could be...could be hard to determine? And so I'm just