

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

February 15, 2006 LB 188

see what they're increasing from and to. The guiding principle has been basically this, it was to increase the amount that was originally established by the rate of inflation since that time. Now, to that there are a couple of exceptions. One is the Board of Regents race. I heard from many, many people that they thought that was too low, so that's been increased by a little bit more than the rate of inflation. And the legislative one has been raised by the rate of inflation. But since the last time it was raised, it was raised once, I think, in 1998 or so, by a small amount of money. So that doesn't quite fit in that pattern. So then in addition to that, the second part of that flexibility provision indicates that those limitations will be adjusted for inflation every four years, so that they don't become constantly and periodically out of date, but so that they always represent the same value in terms of purchasing power. Now let me talk a little bit about what I call the focusing provisions. That is, as I see the Campaign Finance Act, everything in it works; it's just like the camera that's slightly out of focus, and we need to turn it a little bit. And these six things, or five things that I'm going to talk about are the turning of the focus to bring these provisions into play the way they were meant to be brought into play, and to, I think, effectively preclude even the possibility of a Hergert-type maneuver. Look at number six, first of all, on your list. And that shortens the filing deadline for the 40 percent affidavit from five days to two days. I think most of you, having operated under this law, know, if you've been in a situation with a nonabiding candidate, that funds don't get released until the nonabiding candidate files this affidavit. I'm oversimplifying a little bit here, but that's the fact, the basic fact. And what this does is shorten that filing period, not to an unreasonable amount of time, two days, but from the five days that it was, so that that key triggering event happens a little sooner. Secondly, under number eight, you will see that the calculation for the amount of fair fight funds that might go to an abiding candidate, the calculation of that has been changed so that the abiding candidate will receive either the greater...will receive the greater of the difference between the spending limitation and the highest estimated maximum expenditure filed by the candidate's opponent, which was the old rule, or, and we've added this new part, the difference