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FLOOR DEBATE

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between the spending limit and the opponent's actual expenditures as reported in his campaign...his or her campaign statements. Now, in conjunction with that, under number eleven, nonabiders will have to file a third campaign statement. It's an abbreviated statement, but it's due for the period up to eight days before the election, and it's due six days before the election in the commission's office, so that somebody who is playing around with their estimate nonetheless is going to have to file six days before an actual report, and if that actual report shows expenditures beyond the campaign limitation, then that will be used as a triggering mechanism instead of the 40 percent affidavit. Okay. Number nine is a limitation on the amount of fair fight funds that can be transferred, and it's limited by this amendment to three times the amount of the campaign limitation amount, so that if your Regents race limitation in a general is \$25,000, three times that amount is the most that could be transferred to an abiding candidate. The old rule was you could transfer up to three times as much, and then beyond that, the abiding candidate could continue to raise funds. But there is a perceived constitutional problem on the part of many people, and I might agree with that. And so the ability to further raise funds by the abiding candidate is eliminated, and the rule becomes that the total amount of fair fight funds that can be transferred is three times that limitation. And that should be enough in any particular race. I think it will be a rare day when a candidate pushes beyond that sort of horizon. Then the fifth thing that I would point...bring to your attention is number 14 on the concept sheet, and that basically indicates that once somebody has qualified for fair fight funds and wants the 40 percent affidavit or the last campaign statement shows that fair fight funds should be paid, then in that event, the money...the abiding candidate can take out a loan, once notified by the commission orally that they've qualified, and get the money moving faster, so that by the time the money actually comes in, it will have saved several days' time. So it's another one of those tightening, focusing kinds of things. With that, there have been some gaps and omissions filled with regard to penalties. There have been no additional onerous penalties, but some have been increased. There is still a felony offense, as there was before, but most of them are civil penalties and a