

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

February 15, 2006 LB 188

the incumbent is hurt. Or you may bring onto the playing field your work that you've done in here, and the advantage is to you if you're well thought of for the work that you've done. And what's wrong with that? People are usually awarded for doing a job well. So there is no way that this is an incumbent protection system, especially compared to what historically was true before. It's just ignoring all of our history to say such a thing. Secondly,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: You're now on...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...what's wrong with having \$700,000...

SENATOR CUDABACK: You're now on your time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in the fund?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Now on your time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you. What's wrong with having \$700,000 in the fund? The whole idea of this matter was to not put General Funds in, let it grow slowly as we gained experience with the law, let it start applying to additional races as the fund got higher and could cover additional races. And so that's what's happened. Back at the beginning, it covered only the Legislature. And then, as no money was paid out of the fund, and never has been paid out of the fund to a legislative candidate, then we went to the constitutional officers. We've been at that level of the constitutional officers, including...I shouldn't say just constitutional officers, but the Board of Regents and the Board of Education are also included. So everybody is included in the law but one, the Governor's race. Now, that race costs a lot of money, and to have a proper covering law with a proper fair fight fund, it has to get up to a certain amount. It won't cover the Governor's race this time around. But if this time around hardly any money is taken out of it, it might next time around, so that suddenly--and this is probably why Senator Brashear is disturbed about this--suddenly, it's going to apply to all the races, in two to four years, because we're not using much public funds, and we're getting the beneficial effect of a fair fight, and holding down campaign