

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

February 15, 2006 LB 188

pays a fine, is there anything in this bill that there's any more consequence than what we have today?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, there are a number of additional civil penalties, including one that I wanted to recite to you. We've changed the way things are structured in the civil penalty sections of a couple of provisions, especially the one that applies to the 40 percent affidavit. Instead of it being a flat-out smaller fine, the penalty is no less than \$2,000 and no more than three times the amount of fair fight funds the abider received. Basically, that rule is beefing up the civil penalties. The felony offense, the misdemeanors, continue to be there. Senator, I know you're frustrated with the current situation. But the current situation hasn't played out, Senator, as you well know, and it has a long ways to play out. And I suggest to you with every confidence, it's going to play out to the end of justice.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Beutler, thank you. I would say this. I serve with 48 very honorable people in this body. And I tell people that when I'm back home. I try to uphold the institution. And all of us got here by trying to play by the rules. We maybe made minor errors that were pointed out to us, or maybe the person doing our campaign finance reporting for us, or maybe we who were doing it ourselves made some mistakes. But we worked it out. I don't think any of it was intentional. I don't think anybody here intentionally violated our campaign finance laws. And from that standpoint, I applaud everybody in this body. And I think we should expect people running for our other offices to do the same. And if you don't do that,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...I think there should be consequences. And so, I don't know how much should be spent on different campaigns, I don't know if the amounts in this bill are correct, but I'm willing to live with that for now and see how we play out. It does bother me when a multimillionaire doesn't care how much money they spend, they don't care how big a fine they pay.