

I could not think of anything that would be more appropriately, assuming public financing of elections is correct, I couldn't think of any more appropriate source of funds than the General Fund itself which certainly could be adequate to cover. I'm not real familiar with this bill as much as I would like. I understood it to say that if we did this public funds would not be spent. You know from my viewpoint a tax is a tax is a tax whether it's a fee or whatever you call it. Anything that we extract from citizens and authorized by statutes is some kind of form of taxation and as a result certainly becomes public funds. But I don't see where the bill is held up. All it would need is an A bill, put some money in it and it's operational and it will be funded with public funds which any source that we force to be collected will be public funds. Now admittedly I don't like the whole concept and I voted no on the bill originally but it is now the statute and you abide by the statute as it currently exists, but I see no point in overriding the Chair on the appropriateness, the properness of his ruling as far as parliamentary procedure but I also see no point in voting to overrule the Chair on the content of the amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Crosby, on the motion to overrule the Chair.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. I'm going to support the Chair, too. I think in the first place I'll just say a couple of things. Senator Will expressed the germaneness problem so well that I won't reiterate that because he pointed out the statutes and that we are not in the same ballpark at all when we start adding gambling money to fund campaign, political campaigns. But the second thing I want to say is a year ago I guess it was when we voted on this particular statute and to start the campaign reform, campaign finance reform process, the one thing I did not like about it is the public funding. I don't like that idea of public funds going into political campaigns but I hung in on the bill at the end because I thought we were making a step forward trying to do some campaign finance reform. We talk about it all the time, but we don't always do it. The second thing I want to say is that if you want to...you talk about raising or using this money to change the image of the Legislature, I think what we'll end up looking like is a bunch of people with no integrity. To use gambling money for campaign funds I think is going to turn off a lot of people. Even people who are for the public funding part of the campaign reform will not like the idea of using gambling money. The