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LB 242

just...it's a pitfall that you can easily fall into. You file it with Accountability and Disclosure, and you forget to file it with the county and technically you are in violation. The same is true of your campaign statements. This amendment would say that you don't have to file them locally, nor would the independent expenditure reports have to be filed locally. The amendment also says that your statements of financial interest, except those of candidates, those don't have to be filed locally either. Senator Beutler has an amendment which I think is coming up. Senator Beutler, and I have no problem with his amendment, it will eliminate that but I will let him explain that. There is a 1997 statute regarding independent expenditures and those reports which overlap and they are less stringent than what we passed last year in LB 438, so we take those out. That is a clean-up portion. What we passed last year is more stringent. It covers more and is what we should be doing, and the '97 changes really are not necessary at this point. The most substantive thing that this bill and amendment does is it clarifies the language we passed last year. If you remember, in LB 1021 last year we required lobbyists reporting entertainment expenses for receptions and dinners to which legislators, executive officials, and the public are invited, we really never talked about what is that cost. How do you determine what that cost is? It was sort of something we left for later to determine. We have worked with Accountability and Disclosure to come up with an acceptable procedure, also one that's acceptable for those people who are going to have to file those reports. And what it is is the average cost is determined by the cost of the event divided by the number of persons expected to attend, and then you actually, the average cost is actually taken times the number of legislators who attended. So what they are going to have to do, take the total cost, divide it by who they expect to attend, and then you take that average cost times the number of those that did attend. All they have to do is keep track of who came and who didn't. So when Senator Janssen comes, who can eat a whole lot more than Senator Schimek, we don't have to apportion two or three equivalents for him and a half for Senator Schimek. It all sort of averages together. That's right. Under LB 620, we could use that equivalent eater exception, I suppose, and determine what equivalents are, but I was bludgeoned enough by that. We did