

original statutory fee of \$2.00 that was several years ago. So what this does is the practical impact of this would change to establish uniformity in the fee and require the collection of the fee by all 93 counties. I ask for the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Peterson. There is an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend. (Read Chambers amendment as found on page 778 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, what I would do by reinstating the stricken language is restore to the county attorneys the discretion as to whether or not they will charge this fee. In Douglas County the fee is not charged. I don't see why it should be of any concern to somebody in Rock County or Custer County or wherever to insist that in Douglas County the county attorney assess this fee if he or she in his or her sound discretion decides that it ought not be assessed. So I am asking that that language be reinstated, thereby restoring to the county attorney the discretion to determine whether or not this fee will be assessed. The bill is a bad bill because it tailgates on a system which is a bad system. The county attorney has no business being put into the bill collecting business. There are a lot of very slothful, careless merchants who could guard against many of these bad checks they receive, but since they know they can dump the responsibility on the county attorney they have chosen to do that. I think that no law should ever be enacted which encourages a business person to be lazy and careless and create a new category of offenses that place the government in the business, by statute, of doing that which a prudent merchant ought to do for himself or herself. So the first step that I am taking is to try to at least restore to this bad system some discretion that allows those county attorneys, who want to mitigate the rigors of this system to some extent, to do so. If you have any questions about the amendment I am prepared to answer them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Hall, would you care to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, yes, I would. I am