

March 2, 1994

LB 907, 1129, 1359  
LR 2, 325

employee. And the complaints, after investigation, were found to be for the sole purpose of harassment. Many of us have read articles or heard horror stories about false allegations made about child abuse to get back at an estranged spouse during a custody battle, or we have also heard about, like in this case, the ex-employee who files complaints against an employer with no factual basis. This misuse of the investigative powers of government is wrong and it is expensive to the state. For each false report, the resources of the state are diluted from pursuing truly worthy complaints. Under LB 907, if a governmental department or agency conducts an investigation based upon a complaint, and the entity finds that the complaint was knowingly false, then the complainant can be charged with false reporting, which is a Class I misdemeanor, and if found guilty may be ordered to pay restitution to the agency or department or a law enforcement agency for the cost of the investigation. Is this a restraint of free speech? No, I don't think so. It is a restraint of the abuse of free speech. If you knowingly lie, that's wrong. I believe that we cannot allow our investigative departments, agencies, and law enforcement agencies to be used in the above described manner. This bill will provide an effective deterrent to people who might consider this kind of reprisal against citizens of the state. Thank you.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Mr. Clerk, items for the record prior to the amendments.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, quickly, Revenue Committee offers notice of hearing. That is offered by Senator Warner. Senator Chambers has amendments to LB 1129. Executive Board Legislative Council reports LB 1359 to General File with committee amendments attached. LR 325 is a resolution by Senator Hall and Chambers. (Read a brief explanation.) And, Mr. President, LR 2, that was read this morning on Final Reading has been presented to the Secretary of State. (See pages 969-73 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Hudkins would move to amend the bill with an amendment found on page 834 of the Journal. (See AM3177.)

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Hudkins, to open on your amendment.

**SENATOR HUDKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. My amendment is in the Journal and also you should have received a copy of this a day or so ago. It doesn't do a whole