

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Tennessee's Office

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CLERK: Mr. President, 476 by...introduced by Senator Janssen and others, relates to handguns, adopts the Concealed Handgun License Act. Bill was discussed yesterday on the floor of the Legislature. At that time, there was a division of the committee amendments. The Legislature adjourned for the day, discussing the first component. Mr. President, FA58, having to deal with a fee, when they adjourned, Senator Chambers had an amendment pending to that component of the committee amendments. Senator, FA74, changes the...strikes "one" and inserts "four". (FA74, Legislative Journal page 1193.)

PRESIDENT MAURITAD: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm still tussling with that fee, and so that people can be brought up-to-date on what this is, when a person files an application to get a license to carry one of these concealed weapons which will be hidden in his or her clothing, a nonrefundable fee is to be charged. That fee was set in an amount designed to make this bill what those who support it call revenue neutral. The green copy of the bill requires a fee of \$75. The committee amendment would raise that fee to \$100. As Senator Schimek pointed out yesterday, even with that increase to \$100, there's going to be a shortfall. That level of fee will not cover the cost of administering this bill, and I'm talking about the activities of the State Patrol, primarily. My amendment would raise that fee to \$400. I have talked about why I think the fee should be increased. I started at a level of \$500. A majority of the body felt that was too high. You forced me down to \$450. That was felt to be too high. Although it made me stagger, Senator Jones, I pulled myself up and lowered the amount to the amendment which is before you now, \$400, and I am serious in recommending that we increase the fee to this amount. I don't think the only purpose of a fee when we're dealing with a bill such as this is to raise enough money to make the bill revenue neutral. It can serve the purpose of discouraging some people from applying for one of these licenses on whim. Maybe a person would say, well, if I can get a permit to carry a gun hidden in my clothes, I'm going to go ahead and do it. But if, when they begin to take that step, they see that there will be a nonrefundable fee of \$400 assessed, it probably