

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 23, 2002 LB 259

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 259, a bill originally introduced by Senator Wehrbein. (Read title.) Bill was discussed yesterday, Mr. President. At that time, Revenue Committee amendments were offered. There were amendments to the committee amendments that were offered. This morning the first item I have is by Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers would move to amend the committee amendments. Senator, I have FA815 in front of me; amends the committee amendments on page 1, line 19. (Legislative Journal page 310.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I can see that the body is really up and ready to run on this bill. I'm being somewhat facetious for those who may just read the transcript in years to come, because they'll wonder why in the world would the body be interested in a bill like this when on far more controversial measures they go to sleep. I'll tell you why I think everybody is so calm this morning. I was rushing around in my office trying to get ready to come up here and I don't like to leave papers down there that I'm going to leave, so I turned on the television set and I thought I had turned into the old-fashioned revival hour because I heard what I thought was kind of a...the lead into for a camp meeting. That's where you tell people come up to the altar and have your soul saved. Then I looked at the number on my television set and it said 29, so I was on the right channel but I couldn't figure what was going on. Then it came to me that this is the regular ritual that you all go through every morning and, I'm going to say it again, when you all invite religion into the Chamber of the Legislature and not everybody is religious, expect the nonreligious, the unreligious, the heathens, the "sheathens", the pagans and whatever else that is not a Christian that may be in the Chamber, to respond or react to it in the same way you all do. I tried to put an end to all of that and I was unsuccessful, but I am not bound, as a member of the Legislature, to let things pass without comment, but here's what I will say. When they have those sermonettes in the morning, it does give me more time to do what I've got to do, so I'm not objecting to them based on the length. Now let me get back to what I was going to talk about this morning. We have before us a bill brought by Senator Wehrbein on behalf of Cass