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January 15, 2004 LB 452

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Next agenda item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next bill, Mr. President, is LB 452, introduced by Senators Smith and McDonald. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 16 of last year, referred to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments. (AM0404, Legislative Journal page 574, First Session, 2003.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Smith, you're recognized to open on LB 452.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I stand to introduce LB 452. It is a bill that addresses auto registrations. And if you believe that...as I do, that folks coming in from out of state and are not registering their vehicles in Nebraska in a timely manner because of the ten-day automatic waiver, this bill might pique your interest. It is an effort of mine, due to demands by the public, and certainly my own observations of folks who move in from out of state and continue to not register their vehicle in Nebraska because we happen to place an emphasis on vehicle tax as opposed to some other taxes. I'll walk you through the green copy. And I do have some amendments to scale it back significantly. And I ask for your input as well, and the will of the body, to arrive at a particular fine that is workable and fair. I am in an effort to mirror Colorado. It's a common thing in Colorado that they're a stickler for registering their vehicles in-state. In fact, they say, if you own a business, have a job, or live in the state for 90 days, you better license your vehicle in Colorado, or there's a \$500 criminal penalty, and up to a \$500 civil penalty as well. My efforts do mirror that. I want your input on that and...as far as what is fair. I'm willing to go with that. If you look at your handouts that I've handed out, you'll notice that a pretty common vehicle would be a Ford Explorer, is \$500 in taxes. That doesn't include sales tax, that would ultimately be payable anyway for a new vehicle. But the annual fee being \$500, that's lost when someone can move into Nebraska, let's say with a Kansas plate, and say to themselves, well, I can drive my