

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 27, 2005 LB 117

subsection (10), which is saying that the penalties for meth are the same; but in no event shall such person be punished by a penalty greater than a Class IB felony again, it enhances the penalty for a meth dealer or manufacturer that uses a firearm while they are conducting this activity. This seems to make sense to me. It's justifiable. Meth...people on meth, people manufacturing meth, tend to use the drug. And generally, meth users are extremely paranoid. They tend to be impulsive. There have been situations in our surrounding states where individuals...excuse me, where police officers, law enforcement individuals, have gone in to shut down a meth lab and have been faced with meth cooks on the drug that have used firearms against them. And it simply is an enhancement designed to protect law enforcement and thus protect the community. I would urge your adoption of this component of the Judiciary Committee amendments. And I would be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. You've heard the opening on the second portion of the divided committee amendments, FA189. Open for discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a provision which was separated out to be dealt with individually, because it did not fit well within the other divisions. I support this amendment. I will vote for it. I did not vote for the last one, because I still have some questions about the nature of those penalties, the suitability. But I didn't vote against that entire division, because I don't have that much objection to most of it. I will use this one as an opportunity to say a few more things about what it is the Legislature is doing here. I should ask a question of somebody, but I won't right now. I will just draft up my findings, and then see whether I can get the body to agree to adopt them as an amendment. Not hopeful that the body will, because it's difficult for anybody to acknowledge openly that an action which is being taken is not going to have that much consequence associated with it in terms of solving the problem that is being addressed. Keep in mind that by some estimates, and they've been published, over 90 percent of the methamphetamine available in this state comes from outside of this state. If you pass this bill, you are not going to eliminate every meth lab in this