

committee dealing with license plates was appointed Senator Clark and Senator Beutler. They put a lot of work on this. And they came back to the committee and made reports of all kinds on what they'd seen and what they had heard. We finally arrived at the bill that we have now in committee, and I would like to ask the question that has been asked many times. What is the purpose of a license plate? The purpose of a license plate is to identify the person that owns the automobile, to identify the automobile. However, the license plate can be a method of seeing whether there is an automobile ahead at the nighttime but that is not really the purpose of it. Now then having to do with the ability to see a license plate in the distance, we had a good look at that. I was invited to go to Iowa and visit the prison there where the plates were being manufactured for other states and I was quite impressed. I was told that this company manufacturing the plates there in Iowa did have the ability to put out a plate with five candle power that would last for six years and I assume they are back in it. Now then we are going to a bid system to save money, and how much? Frankly I don't know. Maybe it is \$500,000, maybe it is a million, maybe it is two million. But all we are talking about, give everybody a chance. We don't know how much it is going to save. It could be three or four million, maybe more, but I have found that everytime you put something out for a bid, as a consequence, you can save money by bidding so that is what we are talking about here. We are talking about bidding. How much money we will save? I don't know and Senator DeCamp raised that question. Can you prove...I don't know. When I went out to Iowa prison, we specifically discussed the production rates of both systems. Mr. Richardson that was with us that day informed me that Iowa had no trouble with producing either system and that their production rates are equal. As a matter of fact, the two systems go through the oven side by side and at the same rate. One system hangs the plate vertically and the other one holds the plates horizontally but there were not any problems with producing either system. Now Senator Clark's interim study, the specifications ask the states, and give the name, Colorado, Missouri, Arizona and Connecticut, if they had loss of production based on the experience that they have had in producing the beads-on-paint system, and it is my understanding that one state was having a problem producing the same number of plates using the beads-on-paint system. No state reported having a problem with the beads-on-paint. I support taking competitive bids for both license plate systems and then using the lowest acceptable bid. I believe that LB 290 gives the Department of Motor Vehicles the proper direction and authority to take bids on both systems and I think we are going to save some money. Thank you very much.