

April 30, 1981

LB 76

as a result of a high-speed chase. But the cases that I have documented in that handout for you will show where innocent people have been third party victims. There have been shootings by police at the wrong vehicle. They have chased the wrong vehicle. They have caravaned, which means several cruisers will be in a line chasing an individual car, and when the pursued person comes to an abrupt stop or any of the cruisers in front abruptly stop, those in the rear have plowed into those in front. So we have a type of situation...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...which is very detrimental, not only to the public safety, but to the concept of law enforcement. Practically every major newspaper in the state at some time or other has editorialized against high-speed chases and present policies and practices in law enforcement agencies are not sufficient to cope with the problem. So although you have not listened very carefully to all of the details that I have discussed, I hope you understand the thrust of this amendment and I am asking that you return LB 76 so that the amendment can be added.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members, Senator Chambers is most sincere, most dedicated, and most knowledgeable in this area of high-speed chases and I think he and I both have the same goals. We do have two completely different approaches. I promised Senator Chambers on repeated occasions I would delay the bill that I had here on chases which has been here for I don't know, two or three months, so that he would have his opportunity to offer these amendments and that I would tell the body simply to use your own best judgment as to which method you want to go with. My method, I guess, I would have to say is more simple and I would hope as a first step would address the high-speed chase problem. I hope it does. I think it will go a long way and let me simply say with respect to the standards, it does have on page 5 very specific standards about what has to be in the written plan. I believe it is a plan that law enforcement in general has decided that they can accept, would like to try for at least a year, and for that reason I am going to continue to support the bill basically or essentially as I have it. I urge the rest of you to use your own best judgment as to which approach you wish to take and simply close on the subject by saying I have tried to do as much as I think is reasonable and possible on the subject at this particular time.

4171