

please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Mr. Clerk, an amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the committee amendments. (The Chambers amendment appears on page 2021 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is a highly political issue. It relates to raising taxes. It's an attempt to circumvent the ordinary appropriations process and try to get money into this fund by raising a hidden tax by calling it a fee. Here is what I'm proposing to do. I want to reduce some of these fees. Those who are in favor of this bill want it to move. Now if it's what the Governor wants, if I get the amendment attached, the Governor is going to do all he can to persuade people to take it off on Select. So let me get my amendment attached, then let the Governor see if he can take it off. And if we do that, then a lot of time will not have to be taken by me. But I have opposed increases in fees from whatever source ever since I have been down here if I thought the fee increase was unreasonable. There have been attempts by court reporters to have their fees raised so much per page and so much per so many words, and I have opposed that. So this is not a new thing for me. And since automobiles are becoming essential for so many people, even those with these low-paying, dead-end jobs, I don't want to see it cost them any more than absolutely necessary to have a means to get from point A to point B. To those people who have plenty of money, this may seem like a modest and even inconsequential amount. And if you look at it the way Senator Schellpeper described it, that raising the fee by \$6 on the license is only a dollar something per year, that's fine if you're going to save each year the amount it would take to equal an additional \$6 at the end of four years. That is not the way poor people live. For those who are in agriculture, it's not the way farmers live. You often live from hand to mouth. You live in a debt economy. You never are in a position where you don't owe somebody some money. So these are not inconsequential amounts except to those who have plenty of money and to those who are trying to raise money by hidden taxes. So what my amendment would do is on pages 17 and 22, because that's where you're going to raise the fee for the driver's license from ten to sixteen dollars. It's to reduce that amount by \$2. Two dollars. I would like to get rid