

concerns that wanted to make sure that in those situations where a leased vehicle or in situations similar to that, that the owner of the vehicle, the leasing company, would not be found to be negligent and a part of the action. So this clarifies that the vehicle owner, in that section, would have to be contributorily negligent before they could be made a part of the suit. With that, I would ask for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Chambers, to speak to the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, before I touch on this amendment as such, and I'm going to oppose it...first of all, this is a bad bill, it's poorly drafted, and it's not...the words do not do what Senator Maurstad said his intent is. His bill, if you read it, sets up more hoops that the injured third party has to jump through before recovering. If you look at his point-by-point description of these various sections, you'll see where he points out that the innocent third party has to make a good faith effort to establish negligence. Every step along the way can require additional litigation. Every time you're put in a position where you have to draw somebody else into the pot to be liable, they're not going to come willingly. So if I, as the injured third party, am going to be required to show that more people have to be brought into the mix, then there can be disputes between and among them as opposed to me. The whole purpose of the existing law is defeated. The aim of the law as it stands now is to make sure that a person innocent of any wrongdoing who is hurt as a result of this governmental activity, which is intrinsically dangerous, is going to be compensated, to the extent that money can do so, for the harm that he or she suffers. This bill is going to take 24 hours, at least, and I'm prepared to fight. Aside from my attempt to abolish the death penalty, the one issue that has meant the most to me since I've been in this Legislature is to ensure that innocent third parties hurt in police chases will not lose that protection. This is the only victims assistance law in this state that has teeth in it, that will guarantee that a person, harmed through no fault of his or her own, will be compensated. When Senator Maurstad, some of these governmental subdivisions and others want to say make the one have to pay who is responsible, meaning the fleeing driver, if you look at the page of articles that I handed you, the one that's numbered with the Roman Numeral I, on page 11, it shows that the city got a