

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members. I have a couple comments, one is, I guess, a question. Senator Kristensen, was there any discussion on the cost of increased enforcement? I tend to support...before I start, I tend...I support the rationale of not having a tolerance or a fudge factor and that we should be more absolute. But I am concerned about perhaps increasing cost of law enforcement by so doing it. Did you have a discussion on that?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, Senator Wehrbein, the committee, as we began to discuss the speed limits, looked at it from the point of view of what's the appropriate state policy. That's a separate issue from how many resources and what types of resources do we devote towards enforcement. That's going to become, quite frankly, a budget issue, is how much of our state dollar do we want to spend. We could obviously take many people off of doing other things, such as drug enforcement, and putting them out on the roads, and you might have a bigger impact on public safety doing that than you would some other things that law enforcement does. They have limited resources. Quite frankly, we did not put a dollar value, nor did we assign some value as to how much increased dollars it would cost for law enforcement for these. I got to tell you as a practical matter, from my experience, I think they will enforce the speed at 75 more vigorously than they do at 65, and I think that's because they go faster, and I think that law enforcement perceives that's a bigger risk. Since law enforcement doesn't get any of the money for the fining system, I don't think that it's fair to say that because the fines are higher they'll write more tickets, because there's no incentive to do that really.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. I am concerned at this point that we will have an increased cost. And I thought maybe there was a discussion either within the hearing or with the patrol that putting...the need for more manpower or person power on the highway would be necessary in order to keep these enforcements. I also would question...I'm not sure what I'll do with Senator Chambers' amendment. It does appear that it's really three times the penalty for speeding on the interstate for the same miles per hour over, under your committee amendments as...and I wonder, is there a rationale for particularly that?