

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 25, 1999 LB 476

would deter that person. I have no interest in seeing many people in this state carrying guns hidden in their clothes. That is not a good public policy to be adopted. Sometimes an argument is made about the number of other states which permit this. All that argument establishes is the ability of the National Rifle Association to either intimidate or, in effect, bribe legislators to go their way. They simply offer to give people money when they run for reelection, and I don't know if they give them other money for other purposes. I don't know that, but they do reward those who come their way. I think the Governor, the current Governor, even got some money from the NRA and he has stated that he'll sign an atrocity like LB 476 if it gets to his desk. Because the Governor has succumbed, my job is to try to prevent bad policies from becoming the law of this state. I cannot imagine a worse policy than that one embodied in LB 476. Although this amendment does not go to the heart of the bill, it will, I hope, prevent some people from seeking these permits. Additionally, if this atrocity is enacted into law, there is an assurance that an adequate amount of money will be available to administer it in view of the fact that no General Fund money is to be expended for that purpose. That is the amendment. I hope you will support it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. For discussion on the Chambers amendment, Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: (Microphone not activated immediately.) Thank you. Am I on? I'm on now? Okay. Mr. President, members, thank you. I have not spoken regarding LB 476 yet. I will say this, there are some people in my district whom I respect very much who are very, very much against this measure. There are many others in my district who, just as emotionally, just as firmly, are for this measure. So I'm trying to hopefully, if we can get to some of the amendments, Senator Thompson has one regarding juveniles, and perhaps some other ideas might make the bill a little bit more safer. There's a lot of counterarguments each way. It's very compelling when someone says, well, I just simply want the right to defend myself, someone who is in fear for whatever reason. Certainly there's areas of the state where gunfire is not unheard of at night and I can understand some of the fear that people have and am sympathetic to that. There are others who says, well, to make things safer the answer is not to