

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

April 21, 1999 LB 76

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 76, discussed this morning by the Legislature. At that time, there was an amendment by Senator Bromm to the committee amendments adopted. The committee amendments, as amended, were adopted. At this time I have nothing further pending to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, if we can have your attention. Senator Coordsen, on the advancement of LB 76. Senator Coordsen is excused. Senator Chambers, followed by Tyson, Beutler, Hudkins, Baker, and Brashear.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, since I will have an opportunity to close, I'm not going to take any more time than to say where the bill is at this point. By adopting the committee amendment, all reference to abolition of the death penalty is gone. The committee amendment would have put in place a three-year moratorium. The adoption of Senator Bromm's amendment cut one-third of the time off. In other words, the moratorium will be for two years. But his amendment gives some additional staffing to the Crime Commission so that, in view of the fact that less time is going to be available, they will need more assistance to do a quality study. Between now and Select File, a number of us are going to work on the language, relative to the study, to tighten it up, give more specific direction to ensure that that study is a quality piece of work. And, Mr. President, Mr. President, hold tight, put on your seat belt, because I'm giving my time back to the Chair, whatever I have left.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: I think that, Mr. President, that we now have proof that whoever the man is in this body at the chair of number 11, he is an imposter because the Senator Chambers I know wouldn't give back one second; he would run over. But I think we're going to be voting fairly soon on LB 76. I agree with Senator Chambers that the character of LB 76 has substantially changed and I don't think that matters. Now we're going to have a two-year moratorium, while we contemplate our navel, on the death penalty. We're going to look at figures that have been looked at over and over and over again. Without imputing