

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

February 22, 2000 LB 717

The purpose is to provide more funding to these areas with a large number of facilities and other structures that must be reviewed and included in the planning process. The SERC is directed to promulgate the rules and regulations regarding the distribution of the funds. My goal is to get the money to the LEPCs simply and quickly without requiring them to apply for funding while maintaining accountability. There are current statutory provisions in place as well as regulations which require LEPCs to provide an accounting and audit for all monies they receive and spend. These provisions should provide adequate accountability to the state and others regarding the proper use of these funds. My goal, since I have begun work on this issue in 1995 can be summarized as follows: I call it the three "Ps". Prevention, property damage and injuries can be reduced greatly by preventing the occurrence of an accident involving hazardous materials. Preparation, good planning, training, and coordination are essential for minimizing damages caused by releases of hazardous materials. And, thirdly, public involvement, which alleviates fears, utilizes local talents, and keeps people informed. The original bill, LB 717, raised some issues that were a part of the discussions during the interim. That bill will be replaced by the committee amendment, should this body choose to adopt the committee amendment. That is the wish of the working group that has been meeting. I believe it's the desire of the business community, the emergency responders and planners. To my knowledge, there is no opposition at this time that has surfaced considering all of the contacts that we have made. I have circulated for your information a map that I will later discuss in a little bit of detail, and also a LB 717 funding request with a model annual budget on the back, some information that you may look over, and I would be happy to entertain any questions later or after the committee amendments are introduced. Honorable President, with that I will conclude my introduction. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Preister. Committee amendments, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President and members of the body. To begin with, I would be very remiss if I did not thank Senator Preister and his staff for all their hard work on this issue. This wasn't just any interim study. This was an