

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

January 27, 2003 LB 245

because the law was not what determined my obligation to my children. I say all that to point out that I'm not sympathetic toward people who have the means to pay child support and do not do it. I am not sure that I'm opposed to interest being tacked on under appropriate circumstances, but in every situation there are perhaps extenuating circumstances that will differentiate situation "A" from situation "B", and right on through the alphabet. So, before I agree with a blanket statement like this being placed in the law, I need some additional assurances and explanations about what is entailed. When they say interest, do they mean an amount of interest which is set in statute that covers every judgment if there is no other interest amount stated? Do they mean interest that might be imposed by a court, pursuant to an additional judgment? Just what are they talking about? There is another aspect to this. The language in this bill would make the collection of that interest attach to the withholding system, and I'm not certain that such a thing is appropriate. If the interest is tacked on, should that be an additional amount that is withheld through this procedure? Looking at the explanation that was given by HHS, the word "may" appears; that such interest may be recouped by way of employee withholding. Those are some of the questions that I have. I've been promised by Senator Jensen and his staff member that the information will be forthcoming. I want to strike this language at this point to signal to HHS that I'm very serious about this. I want that information to be forthcoming. I don't want any delays, as sometimes these large bureaucracies can do and nobody is responsible. If they don't give that information, this language simply will not be a part of the bill, should it become law. If they have an explanation, there should be no reluctance in providing it. When we strike this language, other than questions about another section of the bill that I have, I will have no further interest in discussing the bill or tying it up. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Jensen, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, I have visited with Senator Chambers and, in order to move the bill, I can accept his amendment, and that will give