

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

January 29, 2003 LB 306

will be struck down, because a person cannot be punished for violating a law when the law does not make it clear what is legal and what is not. Some of these bills deal with subjects that are not very consequential. So if we're careless or sloppy, the implications and the consequences are not going to be grave. But in the same way that we try to get our children to do well whatever they do, it is good for us to develop a habit of legislating appropriately. Then when we come to those big issues, what we focus on is the issue itself, and not whether we know how to craft language. We're going to look at the language, naturally. But we're not going to be careless in the first instance when we reduce something to language and present it to the Legislature. I have offered amendments...well, I can't think of any offhand, but I know that I have...which did not say as clearly what needed to be said. But having been here as long as I have, having offered as many amendments as I have, you know that there's no way that I'm going to have sinless perfection when it comes to drafting amendments. Mr. President, I've said all that I have to say on that subject, so I will wrap this up by saying, I intend to vote against LB 306, as bad policy. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further discussion? Seeing none, the Chair would recognize Senator Stuhr to close.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Of course, I wholeheartedly disagree with Senator Chambers on the importance of this bill. I think that this is a good process, where we allow the commissioners, if it is necessary to raise the fees, they do so within a statutory cap. So we don't just give them free rein. We also do not have to bring every issue and every fee, which, we're dealing with at least 30 of those, separately to the body. This does give the commissioners some guidelines to go ahead and raise those within that cap, if necessary. This, I also want to point out, is not a general tax increase. This eventually...not immediately, because of the amendment that we applied...but it is an increase on user fees. Those that use the activity will pay for it, will pay for that increase. Another issue that I just wanted to bring up, that Game and Parks Commission is taking a ten percent