

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

February 5, 2003 LB 245

SENATOR LANDIS: And it's done, I think, on January 1.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And it's above whatever the prime rate is at that time.

SENATOR LANDIS: That's right. What you don't want is you don't want to make it cheaper for somebody not to pay their judgments...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...than going to a bank.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SENATOR LANDIS: You don't want the state or the...you don't want the judgment creditor to be the banker for the judgment debtor, because the judgment debtor won't pay because it's, you know, cheaper not to pay than to have the money someplace else. That's why it's above the prime rate.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that makes it cheaper to pay, by saying if you don't pay you're going to pay a higher rate of interest, than if you got this money some place else.

SENATOR LANDIS: What you want to do is you want to "incentivize" paying your debts on time...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...including a court judgment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Landis. Members of the Legislature, I have no interest in encouraging people not to pay their child support, but when you talk about a civil judgment, a person cannot be imprisoned for a civil debt, so interest is what you use to "incentivize" the person to pay the debt. For failure to come through on a child support order, jail is where you go. I don't think we need to heap up punishment on top of punishment because we find a particular kind of conduct very