

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 20, 2003 LB 186

authority anyway. It looks to be a county and city power, under Chapter 71, section 2917. They have that power, counties and cities, jointly or severally. As far as talking to the Department of Roads, that was the reason for the bill. Counties are...have the jurisdiction now. Whether they're zoned or not, they have jurisdiction over junkyards as a public nuisance. Counties and cities have jurisdiction now over extermination of mosquitos. I imagine there's probably something in there dealing with strictly health issues, whether it be, you know, rodents, vermin, whatever. I imagine there's a section somewhere in the statutes handling that too. But to answer Senator Wehrbein's question, mosquito abatement is a city and a county operation. So I oppose the bracket motion. I'd like to get this bill moved. I think it's necessary. I understand Senator Beutler's concerns,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...but I think by concentrating the effort, to say it's a city and a county responsibility, it cleans up the fact that right now nobody is taking responsibility, except in some specific cases where...I know the city of Ashland, and following that just from what I see in the newspaper, that's obviously a local issue over there. I don't think Department of Roads is involved in that issue. The one at Ravenna was cleaned up by the city. The one that I'm familiar with in Hitchcock County is a county zoning issue. And I know Department of Roads has not been involved in that one. So I think what we need to do is pass the bill, get the responsibility to the cities and counties. Zoned or not, they still have a responsibility when an issue as a nuisance comes up. The mosquitos is a city-county issue now. I don't know what else we can address. I'm sure if we tell the Department of Roads, you're going to have to do this, yes, they'll go do it. And they're probably going to ask for some appropriation to go take care of junkyards, or raise the fees. The other issue arising...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BAKER: Time? Thank you.