

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

March 13, 2003 LB 209

it, initially this...the Attorney General handled this and he had federal funds to do it. When the federal funds ran out the Attorney General turned this authority over to county attorneys to do. He has the power to turn over certain things. Current...the county attorneys believed that that was outside their scope, so they, at least one, appealed to the Supreme Court and was ruled that that was outside their scope, so they were allowed to collect that money from the state, and this has grown and grown and grown. In some counties we heard testimony that almost every ALR was appealed because of the fact that the county attorney could get some money and the attorney could get some money. It was a way to generate funds. This was not going into the county attorney's budget. It was going into the personal account of the county attorneys. So it was a bargaining chip, it was a way to make money, and there was no oversight. We needed to make sure that we take the oversight back to the state. The Attorney General will get the money from federal funds that go through the Department of Motor Vehicles to oversee this. This is a good way to do it. I appreciate Senator Bromm's work on this. It brings the accountability back to the state, and uniformity I think will be stressed by the Attorney General. And I think that this is the way to go.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Connealy, Senator Vrtiska. The Chair would recognize Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I did not come here today with a heavy heart, but now I have one that is overburdened. As I began to read this bill for the first time this morning, I was not alarmed. I read further and was cross-referred to a section of statute, and that section of statute is 84-917. And when I read the requirements of that statute, words welled up from the bowels of my soul, Senator Bromm, and the words were these: no, no, a thousand times no. What people need to realize about this bill is that a radical change is taking place. Under the current law, if you file an appeal, that stays the revocation. And remember, the revocation