

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

March 31, 2003 LB 265

one, if the concealed carrier is permitted. Now, how is that person going to know that if they can't find a permit on the persons present? So let's say they decide they are permitted. Then they have to determine if the weapon needs to be secure, or if the person or weapon poses a threat to themselves or others. These are volunteers that are going to have to figure that out and make that decision. They're also going to have to secure the weapon. Now, that's another piece that will be new for them. And they have to maintain control of the weapon during treatment and transport if law enforcement is not available. They'll have to determine when and if the weapon may be returned. And again, this goes back to the language where they are going to have to make a determination if the person is physically and, I think this gets to Senator Kruse's issue, mentally, capable of possessing the handgun. And the concerns that this particular city has is that a large percent of the fire and EMS personnel in the state are volunteers who do not possess the specialized training to deal in these types of situations. And the training is quite extensive already, and you'd have to add significantly to training schedules,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...and that would be almost prohibitive, and that it may require that law enforcement secure every EMS and fire scene prior to emergency personnel being allowed to enter and begin their work, jeopardizing the health, safety, and property of our community. And when we get to the details of this amendment, this is where some of the problems are going to be in implementing it. And that is our responsibility as legislators. Whether you philosophically like the idea of someone carrying concealed or not carrying concealed, we have the responsibility to enact legislation that can work in our own communities. And this puts an incredible burden on volunteers who are working in our fire departments and our emergency services workers, making to have...having to make those judgment calls, dealing with weapons issues, and so forth, because we're going to put a lot more people in the public walking around carrying concealed weapons. And I hope that minds aren't...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.