

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

May 19, 2003

LB 209

The second instance, the charge was dismissed. If the prosecutor filed a charge, and you go to court, or your lawyer presents to the court a motion to quash, or a motion to dismiss... a motion to quash is like a motion to dismiss, except it's more limited. It is based on something on the face of the complaint itself which shows that the charge is invalid. That could mean that the improper section of statute was referred to, that an element of the offense was not included. So before you even get to the issue of whether or not this allegation could be proved, you cannot even get to the allegation, because the charge on its face is not properly drafted. That is subject to a motion to quash. And it means that the whole thing is thrown out. A motion to dismiss could be based on any of a number of items. And it would be broader in its reach and scope than a motion to quash. It could actually go into court. And there could even be a start of proceedings. Evidence could even be offered by the prosecution. And the defendant could listen to the evidence, feel that the case has not been made out because the evidence is insufficient, and move the court to dismiss. If the court agrees, the court would dismiss. And here is what the basis for the dismissal would be. The state has presented its evidence and rested. If the court looks at all of the facts that were presented by the prosecutor, and given the prosecutor the benefit of every inference that could be drawn from those facts, and interpret all of the facts presented in a way most favorable to the state, and even with that a finding of guilt could not be had, the court will dismiss it. It could go to the point of the prosecutor presenting the case, then the defendant offering rebuttal evidence. You don't call it that. You're presenting your case in chief. Your evidence undermines the evidence presented by the prosecutor. And the court balances what has been presented, decides that guilt has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, and dismisses. Even if that happens, you're treated as though you're guilty, under this language. Let's say you go all the way to trial. And instead of the defense making a motion to dismiss, or the defense makes a motion to dismiss and the court overrules that motion, the court takes the entire case under advisement. A decision could be made on the spot. But it means the court is going to weigh everything. And instead of dismissing the charge, the court says, being advised in the premises... I don't know why they say