

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

January 15, 2004 LB 560

The batches and other things that are being talked about that these companies are interested in are not likely to affect individuals. So when the company said raising these fees by this amount or this percentage amount is too much, and the committee folded and the department folded cheerfully, I'm wondering why they were willing to raise the fee that ordinary citizens might pay by 200 percent. They're tripling the fee from \$1 to \$3, and they don't even know whether that increase is necessary to defray the cost of providing the service. Senator Baker opines, he has a hunch, that it costs more than \$100...than \$1 for this request, but he doesn't know. I am not going to agree to put an increase in a fee amount on the public based on a hunch. I will tell you this, Senator Baker. If the only entities involved in all of this were these profit-making companies, I might want the department to acknowledge openly that this is a revenue-generating bill. I have concerns of the kind Senator Beutler raised, but I haven't gotten to those yet, about the penalty section. Since my amendment is easy to understand, let me ask you something about the penalty section, if you are willing to indulge me.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Baker, will you yield?

SENATOR BAKER: Certainly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Baker, I didn't see the location in the bill where the penalty section is that Senator Beutler was discussing with you, but was there a new penalty created to go along with the extension of this process from motor vehicles to boats? Was a new...

SENATOR BAKER: Yes, that...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: A new penalty was created?

SENATOR BAKER: Well, it's bringing motorboats into the same category or grouping as motor vehicles.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the penalties have not been changed, the penalties themselves.