

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

January 16, 2004 LB 279

that the counties are willing to give up that kind of loss in registration. And I'm not talking about the tax loss. I'm only talking about the registration loss. Secondly, there is no penalty, I have to check this out, there is no penalty for failure to register. If you get caught driving around unregistered or on a noncurrent current registration, I'll call it that, if you get caught in the second year, for example, you have ten days to register, there is no penalty, and you only pay for the current year in which you are driving the car, so if you...it's worth the risk to many people. All you have to do is say I wasn't driving the car, which I assume many people do that quite easily, even though they may or may not been driving the car. So I would think there ought to be a penalty, if nothing else, if we're going to go this route, for failure to register, because I think law enforcement...this isn't the first thing on their mind. Perhaps it shouldn't be the most important thing for us to be talking about today. I'll acknowledge that too. But I think there's...I know Senator Baker has talked about an insurance database that may improve registration. It may or may not. I'm willing to listen to that. And I know it's a common thought out there that we're wasting money by issuing plates three years, every three years, but the fact of the matter is we are losing money, and perhaps and at the higher-priced plates that may have an impact, but I think we need to understand this very carefully before we do that. Because, as I said, I don't think it's law enforcement's first intention to be watching registration and your color of your sticker or whatever...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...they do. There's many other things that are on their mind. And so, as a result, I think the enforcement is lax. But a plate, whether it's red or black or blue or a different picture, stands out very much and is...improves registration. So I think it's something to think about as we discuss this, this morning. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Hartnett, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, I had the