

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

January 16, 2004 LB 279, 452

sacred to a lot of people in Nebraska. Any changes, I mean to make a change in a license plate issue is like pulling teeth or worse, and that's where we are. We...I think we have about eight or so license plate bills, new bills, in the committee this session, plus we have one out on the floor. It's down the schedule a ways. I also heard from county treasurers and NACO officials saying we need this six-year plate bill. I'm going to ramble a bit. There's been a lot of comments made before I get to speak here, but we simply can't make excuses for going to a six-year rotation on plates. We need to do it. I understand the concerns of the late...failure, the drop in revenue. We had a bill yesterday, Senator Smith's bill, that got sidetracked. He went off on some things with different states and penalties for out-of-state people. We need to get back. That bill was bracketed. We're working on it. We need to get that back so that the fees or the penalties are increased for late or nonregistration. We can make that work. It will come back up on the schedule this year, I think, assuming we can get it back in some kind of shape that's workable. But right now we're talking about a lack of enforcement. These people are driving around, and I've heard from these people saying, well, the State Patrol picked them up in a farm truck that hadn't been licensed for ten years; what's the idea that they're making them license them now? Well, it's been a lack of enforcement, and county sheriffs, I think, are going to have to pick up this slack, because obviously it's not high on the priority list of state patrolmen, although I've talked to two senators who were stopped without their stickers on their plates, so...both by the State Patrol, so actually they're enforcing the law. But we need to get the county officials that do know these people, and especially in the rural counties, I'd say, that are not renewing these registrations on an annual basis until a plate is...well, they're not renewing on an annual basis. Then, when a new plate is issued, they have to, because it's so obvious they don't have their current registration. So I'm saying it's an enforcement problem. In combination with Senator Smith's LB 452, I believe is the bill number we worked on yesterday, we'll try and get that thing back in shape, get it back up here. That would certainly help a lot. To address Senator Pedersen's, Dwite Pedersen's, idea that we mail these out, the postage would be tremendous on mailing all these plates out to individuals.