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February 6, 2004 LB 279

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, to open on AM2354 to LB 279.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This is another one that tightens up this area of motor vehicle registration and taxes. And as I previously mentioned, if you'll see, there's addition on line 11 of "such taxes and fees." And then it goes on to say...the new addition is, on line 18, "If no affidavit is filed or if the affidavit filed is proved to be false all such taxes and fees due for any previous registration period or periods shall be paid prior to the issuance of a registration certificate." It simply is an effort to go back. I don't know this, but I suspect there are some...there's, some of these areas are loosely interpreted, or are not...are loosely enforced. And we've talked about that. And rather than make an issue of it and vote against the bill, I decided to try to tighten it up. But the point is, is...my point has been, if we go to six-year plates, we're going to see a decline in registrations, based on previous history. And it's been as high as a 5 percent increase when we issue new plates, and then they taper off to 2.5 percent increase, then the 2.5 percent increase. And that's the reason I handed out all the papers. I submit to you that it's a fairly significant loss of dollars. And if we were to take that money away...if you look at those boxes there, schools...or, schools are going to lose \$700,000 across the state, on one scenario; up to \$1 million on another scenario. So there is going to be some losses in what we're doing. The state is going to be paying...actually, the constituents are going to be paying a little more for their plate, but there's going to be some losses. And there's going to be some savings at the county level, perhaps, in handling of these plates. I understand that. But some of these government entities are going to lose money. The DMV cash fund, the state recreational road fund is going to lose some money, based on previous history. But I recognize that this is snowball rolling downhill, on a day like this, and it's not going to stop. And so I simply wanted to try to at least tighten up some of those potential losses, by adding interest on the penalties, taxes, and in this case, if there's no affidavit filed--and I don't know that those are out there