

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

February 11, 2004 LB 279

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers has a priority motion. He'd move to recommit the bill to committee.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I don't want to just raise an issue without offering a solution. I admitted that I blundered in voting to put that tax on a tax on this bill. When I was thinking more clearly, I pointed out that the counties, who supported this bill in its original form to increase the lifetime of these license plates as far as before you have to get a new set of plates, were aware, should have been aware or could have become aware of the fact that whenever you place a greater number of years between the time a person gets a set of plates and has to renew them there are people who are not going to renew those plates on time. Those who do not renew on time do not pay the taxes that would be collected at the time of this renewal and registration. Senator Wehrbein discussed it on the floor. I got into the discussion and joined Senator Wehrbein and agreed with what he said. He gave us facts which demonstrated that the trends in the past would let us know that by extending the time between registration or getting these new plates, there was going to be a loss of revenue to the counties. I emphasized that the counties were the ones who strongly support this bill in its original form; give them what they want. And if they support it in its original form and make no reference to any loss of revenue, it's not for me to step in for them and do what they ought to do, say what they ought to say if they had some concern. I then pointed out that if they came in here and put up a pitiful mouth and said they needed to make up this lost revenue, I would not support them. That was the position I took. When Senator Wehrbein's amendment came up, I voted yes--a blunder, pure and simple. My mind was vided by Senator Wehrbein's understated eloquence. I just had my nose rubbed into something this morning. The youngest member of the Legislature brought me a printout of the votes on that amendment. Thirty voted aye (pronounced "A"), or aye (pronounced "eye"). I was among the 30, Senator Aguilar. One