

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

February 11, 2004 LB 279

where it was, the new plates will be issued in January, and that you'll be back in session here in January, and if there's anything that they want to deal with the tax or penalties or anything like that, they can introduce a bill next year and take care of that, because they'll just be operating on the new plate anyway and so they'll have time to do that. So that's what we're trying to do, is get it back to where it was, and see if we can't move forward. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, I was...Mr. President, members, I was going to help Senator Chambers. Now I don't know if we call this a filibuster, do we, Senator Chambers? (Laugh) I just want to reiterate what we're going to do and it would be my intention next year, once we get this bill passed this year, that there would be some penalties in (inaudible) perhaps we can think of some even better ideas as to how this might do in terms of reality. The treasurers inform me that it's much easier to add the interest rate to those, such as we do for real estate, than it is to go into the penalty phase. And there's some concern about the amount of penalties that were originally in Senator Smith's bill, I believe, of up to \$100 for a late filing. That is rather severe. On the other hand, by missing registrations, if a person misses, they don't have to go back and pick up two or three years of registration. They do have to pick up taxes, but they don't have to pick up those registrations, and that's the reason for the original intent of the bill, is to make those penalties on the late registrations fairly severe. It is...it is somewhat of a hassle and it does go in, into the school fund, as a fine. And so this is what we arrived at, and I am willing to bring that back next year because I will...I do admit I think we should see a spurt in 2005 registrations with these new plates. And next year then we'll be in time that we can come back and provide a suitable penalty, whatever that may be, as Senator Baker said, that would be able to apply into the next five years, if that's what we end up with, a six-year plate issuance, and hopefully there will be time. There's probably an additional benefit here that the publicity can get out that we will be looking at that and that we can avoid that drop in registration money that we see.