

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

April 26, 2005 LB 40

would be no way to say with certitude what the sentence mean. If you said, Pat the baker...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...bakes bread, are you saying Pat is the baker who bakes bread, or are you telling Pat that the baker bakes bread? So here's the sentence: Pat the baker bakes bread. So unless you punctuate it, you don't know which of those things you're doing, telling Pat something or saying something about Pat. If, in ordinary conversation, a sentence with so few words can be ambiguous, it's problematic when long ambiguous statements exist in the statute. These things trouble me when I read them, just like some of your bills that you bring and I attack. There's something in me that has developed during my time here that causes me to feel a responsibility toward the way we write laws and the way the statutes are constructed, which I would be better off if I didn't feel any concern about.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Further discussion on FA195 to AM0387? Seeing none, Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I don't know that there's too much more work to be done on this amendment. I don't know whether Senator Beutler is going to try to do anything else on the bill. Senator Redfield has talked about being open to suggestions on Select File, and that might go to the underlying purpose of the bill. There were some items of interest that I had expressed earlier, such as protecting these funds from being raided when the state, through the Legislature, decides that this money should be diverted to another purpose. Since the money from this tax, regardless how the tax got into place, and Senator Jensen explained his recollection of it, there was a specific purpose envisioned. In order to serve that purpose, the money should be spent in accord with what is intended to be achieved. As we proceed, I want to