

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

May 6, 2005

LB 454

tell outright falsehoods.

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, the question I was getting...it seems to me that one of the arguments for this change in statute is that bad guys or potential assailants would be deterred from their efforts to assail, if they knew a person or suspected--not knew, but suspected--a person was carrying a concealed handgun. Well, the fact is, right now then, or you correct me, wouldn't someone have, someone who wanted to be an assailant, have that concern right now?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yep.

SENATOR RAIKES: In fact, wouldn't it be the case right at the moment that there are people who, through the affirmative defense provision, may be carrying a concealed handgun, and therefore, they should be concerned about that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, and even those who come from other parts of the state to defend this kind of bill will talk about all the people in their area who carry concealed weapons now, but they'd be against the law. So they're the ones who say all kind of people are carrying concealed weapons now, even though it's against the law. And if you don't believe that, or you're not aware of that, you're not dealing with reality. So everybody is entitled to think that the people they see are carrying guns right now, based on the arguments given by people who support this bill.

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, so my next question, I think I heard Senator Combs say that if this were to happen, that there may be 3 to 6 percent, or something like that, of people who would carry concealed handguns. Actually, is that percentage significantly different than who might be carrying a hand...a concealed handgun now, with the affirmative defense provision?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: First of all, that's just a number taken out of the air--it's not attached to anything. There's no way to make a determination, so I could answer that yes or no, and it would be as valid or invalid as the one who's listening to me and would accept whatever I say. Even if they have a statistic