

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

May 12, 1997

LB 216

different ways to fund different types of programs. And it just happened that when we looked at the automation issue that the only way we were going to be able to fund that particular program was through this \$3 automation fee. And I think it's unfortunate that that's the approach we took. Philosophically, I think I've gone through that, Senator Chambers' arguments on philosophically why we would try to avoid fees for an essential part of state government. But I feel that now that we have additional money in our budget we should reevaluate how we go about funding the different programs much the same way we're doing that on our income tax levels. Now as I stated, the issues of the reasons behind the automation are clearly pushed by other state agencies. Other agencies are benefitting from this information, the Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Corrections, Department of Social Services, looking at areas such as domestic violence, protection orders, issues that touch a large segment of society and certainly should be funded through the General Fund, even issues such as gun control that's currently going to be provided through the information defining whether that individual is a convicted felon that's trying to purchase a handgun. This is the information that the computer and the automation of our court system has provided and will continue to provide. Certainly, it makes more sense to have that funding come from the General Fund. I'll be supporting the Chambers amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Chambers, on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, is this my...will I have another time to speak after this?

SENATOR CROSBY: This is your second time to speak and then you have your closing.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. But with the number of amendments I have, I'll have the opportunity to thoroughly discuss this issue and I intend to do it, and I have other amendments that I will offer. I didn't even get around, by the way, to a motion to strike the emergency clause and this is something like a clinic if anybody wants to pay attention. You can actually move to strike the enacting clause other than on Final Reading. I'm