

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

May 13, 1997

LB 216, 389

we're budgeting, but it would not be small change if it came out of my pocket because it's 400-and-something additional dollars. In view of the fact that the budget is over \$4 billion, \$1 million is not a large amount, and it certainly is not a large amount when we consider...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...what it would do. And the thing that it would do is make sure that the courts are maintained as a result of General Fund expenditures and not fees, as is the case right now. So, I am offering two things. Destroy or do away with LB 216 and this fee system, then adopt the amendment to (LB) 389, which would give a General Fund appropriation to replace the fee.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members. I rise to oppose Senator Chambers' amendment. I think...this is one that goes to two dollars, right Senator Chambers, instead of three? It's interesting that you found that in the record of 1993 about five dollars. I...my...a different source here I have said the original version requested a four dollar fee and did not include a sunset provision. That was the Appropriations Committee that introduced LB 832 on behalf of the Governor. So I don't know which it was. And then the Judiciary Committee changed the fee to three and added the sunset provision because of the concerns that the level of funds would be less in the future and the amount of the fee should be reviewed. At that time, they were warned by Senator Moore that those costs were not going to go away and would continue to be needed. And I just want to make that point at this point that this is an ongoing cost. Three dollars is...something less than what was originally requested, but the court automation is an ongoing cost as I talked about yesterday and the need for technology in this area. And I would urge you not to support this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body. Could I ask Senator Wehrbein some questions related to this issue? When