

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

April 12, 1999 LB 356

article that was attached in this handout that I gave you that organized police agencies don't like these kind of studies, they don't want it done. There is, on page 1 of that handout, an article from the World-Herald, April 10, and today is just the 12th. The headline: "Police To Form Traffic Stop Policy." Who is it that's bringing this group together and saying that such a thing is necessary? Let me read. It's reprint of part of an AP article: "Police chiefs from some of the nation's largest departments said Friday they will create a national traffic stop policy that they said will ensure that minorities are not unfairly targeted." First of all, and I'm departing from the article, they cannot ensure that. There are laws right now that prohibit that kind of targeting, but they're disregarded. Let me continue reading though. "The police chiefs made the announcement at a press conference with minority activists to launch what they describe as an honest discussion on police and race. 'If we are to deal with it, we must stipulate that race is an issue in policing,' Philadelphia Police Commissioner John Timoney said. 'There are an awful lot of people in denial, but so be it. We must move forward.'" There are people in this Legislature who are in denial, want to pretend that black people are not targeted, that the police are fair, that if you allow this seat belt provision to become a primary offense black people are not going to be victimized even though we are being victimized now without such a provision. Now that Senator Byars has had a chance to get caught up with me on the green copy, I invite his attention to page 4, lines 3 and 4. Senator Byars, would you answer a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: I would be delighted to, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Byars, if my amendment is adopted which would reinstate this stricken language, what would be the effect of that amendment, as you understand it?

SENATOR BYARS: The effect of the amendment basically would be to take away the penalty.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And what would the penalty be if this language remains stricken?