

February 27, 1981

LB 55, 76

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The bill is advanced. Okay, the next item is LB 76.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 76. (Title read.) The bill was read on January 9 of this year. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee for public hearing. It was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President, by the Judiciary Committee.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, Senator DeCamp would like to take his own amendments on his own bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the amendments are relatively simple, I guess they are simple if I find them. Let me start out by saying, as you know, the issue of police chases, citizen involvement, damage to the public, innocent people, whether there should or should not be chase policies, whether there should be chases even initiated, what the penalties should be has been somewhat of a controversial subject now for a couple of years and different philosophies, different approaches to the problem have been voiced by myself, for example. Senator Chambers has worked long and hard on the subject and tried to bring it to people's attention for a number of years. My approach, quite simply, as the amendments reflect, is to, first of all, strengthen the penalties and strengthen them in a way that is more than just the average bill, saying the fine is now two hundred instead of one hundred, strengthen them in a way that impacts upon the particular type of people who frequently flee. And as Senator Chambers or anybody else will testify, that very frequently is a young person. What is the most penalizing thing you can do to a young person? The most punishing thing you can do is say, "Look! You took your shot. You took your flight. Now we are taking your license and we are taking it for a substantial amount of time and you can't even touch the wheel of a car to drive." So one of the major parts of this penalty is to make a mandatory loss of license for two years when you flee. Even if it is a misdemeanor, you still mandatorily would lose your license. We also increased the penalty so that that young person, if the car is his and he has an equity in it, that he could actually have his car taken and sold. But it does no good