

April 14, 1994

LB 1175

LR 29

CLERK: (Read record vote. See page 2081 of the Legislative Journal.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting.

SPEAKER WITHEM: LB 1175 passes. LR 29CA.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return the resolution for specific amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I've opposed this proposal ever since it's been before us and I have a motion up there to return to strike a provision from it, but something has come up which to me is so important that I'm going to use my time to touch on that. I read in the paper where the Director of the State Patrol is instituting a quota system as far as the troopers writing tickets. To some people, it might seem insignificant, but I think it's one of the worst, most demoralizing things that the head of a law enforcement agency can do. Not only is it demoralizing to the troopers, but it's hurtful from the standpoint of the public feeling that they have to be given some of these tickets in order for a trooper to reach a quota rather than it having anything to do with law enforcement. The Colonel wants to take the total number of tickets written in a year, divide that by 12, arrive at what is called an average, then a trooper must come within 15 percent of that average on either side. I think the worst thing you can do is judge any law enforcement officer on the...from the standpoint of how many tickets are written. I don't believe a single person on any law enforcement organization joins it to write traffic tickets. What will happen is that the trooper is going to be judged more in terms of the traffic tickets written than anything else so it can have the effect of causing one to hurry up and get his or her quota of tickets, then just sitting back. If a slip is made and the quota has not been made, the best thing to do it start ticketing trucks because if you find one of them speeding you can find something usually to give an additional ticket for so it helps you quickly get to the quota total. But what has to be considered is the fact that we're often told the patrol does a rigorous screening to try to get the best men and women for the job. If after all this screening we cannot trust their discretion when it comes to writing traffic tickets, we ought to take their guns, their clubs, their

13734