

SENATOR McFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President and fellow senators. This amendment does in fact express, in a different way, the amendment that I had initially proposed on Select File, and that is to allow there to be a 10 mile per hour cushion in the designated areas of the interstate that are 55 mile an hour speed limit. Senator Chambers is apparently concerned about we need to express some kind of rational basis in order for it to pass constitutional muster. I thought that my original amendment had some rational basis to it, and that rational basis was my argument in support of it. Unfortunately only three or four other senators thought that it was...there was a rational basis in my argument at that time. But I still hope that you will adopt this amendment. You may recall that on Select File I did oppose the 5 mile per hour cushion across the board because I think we need to specify that it is a 65 mile per hour limit on the interstate. My concern, however, is the same concern that I expressed a few days ago, and that is what about the person that drives all the way across our state and suddenly gets to Lincoln and is not aware that the speed limit suddenly changes for 6 miles outside of Lincoln and is picked up in a speed trap for doing 60 or 62 miles an hour in a 55 mile an hour zone. I think it would be unfair and inequitable to fine that person an equal amount of money as if he or she had been driving over 65 miles per hour. Likewise, the areas in Omaha and South Sioux City that would be 55 miles per hour, individuals would be driving their car on almost 98 percent, I would say, of the interstate highways in Nebraska, they would be driving at a 65 mile per hour limit, and all of a sudden if they accidentally, through neglect, did not...were not aware of the speed limit change, they would be subject to the same penalties as if they had been exceeding 65 miles per hour on the other parts of the interstate. So I think that this amendment would alleviate some of that unfairness by saying we want you to drive 65 miles...or 55 miles per hour in the urban areas, but we're not going to fine you as if you have been driving over 65 miles per hour, we are going to fine you a \$10 fine with no points assessed. And I hope that that is the way it is interpreted, that the speed limit on the interstate is 65 miles per hour, but in the urban areas where it is a little more crowded traffic situation the limit is 55 miles per hour, but if you exceed it the penalty is only going to be the \$10 fine with no points assessed. I had occasion, yesterday, to drive to Omaha. Since my wife had our good car, I took our '67 Chevy pickup. For some of you who have seen me drive that pickup and know the condition it is in, you may be surprised to know that it does go 55 miles