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January 29, 1999 LB 20

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Speaker Kristensen, members of the Legislature. LB 20 allows for a license plate that we now normally use for the handicapped on cars to be reformatted and used for a motorcycle. This issue came to me from a constituent, Cathy Carver, whose story was in our Lincoln Journal this last summer. Cathy works for the Department of Education. She is an associate there, a voc-rehab associate. She has a seeing eye dog, I'm sorry, a constant companion named Cappuccino, her service dog, rather. She is in a wheelchair and, yet, she has a motorcycle with a sidecar in which she keeps the wheelchair and her dog. She drives around. And she has gone to Sturgis, South Dakota, where they have the big rally, as you know, in the summertime. She wants to participate, as anyone would who has a handicap, with as much of that which life has to offer as possible. She cannot, however, get a handicap plate for a motorcycle because we don't have one. Now, in this we are different from most other states, since 33 states have handicap license plates for motorcycles. I think it's a matter of just simply we didn't conceive that there would be somebody out there who needed a handicap plate who would be riding a motorcycle, and that just shows us of the indomitability of the human spirit. Cathy was at the public hearing. The Transportation Committee took her testimony and advanced the bill. I would ask for the advancement of LB 20.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Discussion on advancement? Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, members, first time I talked this session. I have no problem if there is someone with a disability who wants to ride a motorcycle and their disability is that they can't walk. They can't walk. The whole idea of the handicap parking program was to help people who have that kind of difficulty have at least a fair access to public and private places as well. I would have to say that I would hope we'll look at it on Select File. Going to fuss with it now, but I'd like to see some language that would provide that if the disability has nothing to do with their ability to walk then it would not apply as it...as it would be for eligibility for this kind of a plate. I can see this is a great story and, for that reason, I stand up and say what I do, but it has to apply in