

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

February 22, 1999 LB 356

as they heard testimony relative to this bill. And I'd like to talk to you a little bit about what my reasons are for bringing the bill and why I would like to convince you that this is good public policy and public policy that needs to be enacted. While I was out of the Legislature for four years, I, as I had been in the habit of doing prior to that, I perused the sections of the Lincoln paper, the Omaha paper, that deal with traffic safety, accidents and deaths, if you will. And it became alarming to me as I would read the accounts of fatality accidents across the state of Nebraska that, typically, in conclusion to each of these articles would be a one sentence finish stating no safety belts were in use at the time of this accident. I knew, obviously, that statistically that this...this didn't support the change of seat belt use from a secondary to a primary offense in the state of Nebraska, but it was enough to make me start to look, to investigate, to make the decision before I came in back into this body that I wanted to introduce this legislation because I felt overwhelmingly that it was a health and safety issue that needed to be faced by our state. I was here and a member of the Transportation Committee when we debated the seat belt legislation that's in place at this time. I remember the...the debate that we had on this floor, the people in favor, the people opposed, and I saw, over a period of time, the evidence that was presented to member of this bod...this body was so overwhelming that they felt that we needed to deal with this issue for the very reason that it...it dealt with lives of citizens of our state. What LB 356 does is, very simply, it changes from a secondary offense of not buckling up in the state of Nebraska to making the safety belt requirements a primary action. As you know, seat belt use is already required of the driver and all front seat passengers, but a safety enforcement official cannot stop you unless you have created another violation. At that point, if you're not wearing your safety belt, you can be ticketed accordingly for that violation. Under LB 356, it makes it a primary or a standard offense and if you're found guilty of the violation you can be fined \$25, court costs, and you'll have a point assessed against your driving record. I'm having passed out, and hopefully you're receiving it at this time or have just received it, a packet of information which I...which I think very clearly illustrates the need for this type of legislation, and I hope you'll look at it carefully because I think it's extremely