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FLOOR DEBATE

February 5, 2001 LB 375, 376

LB 375.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 375 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 376 is a bill by Senator Bromm. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 8th, referred to the Transportation Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, you are recognized to open on LB 376.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. This bill is to change the law to conform with what the practice has been for many, many years in this state and other states with respect to these larger motor homes and travel trailers that you see going down the road. Many of these travel trailers, because of the...of the awning that they have on the side, when it's folded up that awning might stick out four to six inches and because of that it is wider than the law permits to go down...to go down the interstate. And many of them are three to five feet longer than the existing law allows for them to be on the highways. This would...this would change the law to allow for these motor homes to have 102-inch width maximum, which...with the permanently affixed awnings and appendages, including the hardware for those awnings, which is a...which is the way they are. And I've got a picture of one here. We've all seen them. We see them on the road, and I'm not talking about going down the road with the awning out. I'm talking about going down the road with the awning folded up, which is important. The...the bill would allow these motor homes, which now are only permitted to be 40 feet in length, to be an additional 5 feet, or 45 feet, which would be similar to a bus length of a normal bus. It provides...it provides for a permit to be issued by the Nebraska State Patrol or the Nebraska Department of Roads to operate one or more of these vehicles. If the permit is...is...it must be carried with the...with the vehicle, and our committee had no...had no problems with it. The...we had no objections in the hearing. It seems like it's...it's a practical suggestion to do what actually...to approve what actually is happening right now.