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LB 114

possession law in that it is not illegal for a minor to consume alcohol. This bill addresses that loophole. Additionally, the bill provides for some additional options for a judge when it gets to a conviction and the penalty portion of the...of the conviction. It does provide additional...additional penalties, which could include a motor vehicle operator's license suspension for a period of 90 days to six months for the first violation, six months to 12 months for a second violation, and 12 months to two years for third and subsequent violations. Now, in the very likely event that the underage person is placed on probation or the sentence is suspended by the judge, which happens in many instances, the penalties could include a motor vehicle operator's license impoundment, not a suspension, but an impoundment of that driver's license for the following periods: a period of 90 days for the first violation; 120 days to six months for a second violation; and nine months to one year for any third or subsequent violations. Now, there is a committee amendment that was suggested by the Department of Motor Vehicles for identifying how this operator vehicle license suspension or impoundment would work for those under the age of 16 or who have yet to receive a driver's license. Like I said, that will be addressed by the committee amendment. In the nature of cleanup, the bill also eliminates some outdated penalty provisions related to public property work details supervised by a county sheriff. The reasons behind this bill are really quite evident, that present statutory penalties, that being fines and jail time, have not proven effective in deterring an underage use of alcohol and so the reason for this bill is that I felt it was time for a change, a change in attitude, a change in direction, and also an opportunity to close up that loophole in present minor in possession statutes. And I guess I would...I believe we're...we're sending out some sheets too that give you a little bit of information on the bill. There is a pink sheet, and it's not the pink sheet that was passed out with the poem about Senator Byars' new hairdo. It's actually...it's actually a sheet that was taken off the web site of the American Medical Association. And so, just briefly before I sit down, I want to give you just a few reasons that the American Medical Association and others would give for trying to deter underage drinking. Underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile crashes and it is the leading cause of death