

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

February 19, 2002 LB 185

slow down. Some states also have different speeds for trucks and cars. Why? Well, because trucks are heavier and they carry hazardous cargos, perhaps, and it's more dangerous for them to move fast. Some states even have different speeds for vehicles between day and night. Why? Well, because at night it's more dangerous to drive fast. Senator Smith has a bill that deals with helmets. We, as you all know, we have a law that requires people on motorcycles to have helmets, and he has a bill that would change that. It's, matter of fact, a bill that I signed on to and support. But we distinguish between adults riding motorcycles and youths driving motorcycles, and we require youths to have helmets whereas we would require adults to have education. Why? Because we feel it's more dangerous for the young people to ride motorcycles. Perhaps they can't handle them quite as well and they deserve a little bit of extra protection that the state can offer. We also have a seat belt law here in the state. We require seat belts on cars and we require people to wear them. Even though it's not a primary offense, they have to wear seat belts. But we also exclude tractors and implements of husbandry designed for ag uses. Why do we exempt this agriculture stuff? Because it's slower. Because we, the Legislature, have determined that the danger is not as great for a tractor or an implement of agriculture that they would require a seat belt on those things. We distinguish between different various uses all the time. I don't think this is unusual. We've established clearly that these short line railroads move slower, they don't carry the hazardous cargo, the trains aren't as long, they don't rumble through metropolitan areas or largely populated areas, and so it just makes sense to distinguish to this. As I mentioned on Thursday, Senator Brashear taught me while I was on the Appr...or on the Judiciary Committee that the Legislature moves incrementally, and this makes sense, to enact a law to protect the majority of our population now and see how it works, and then maybe in the future come in and, if it works as well as the proponents of the bill think it will, then maybe we should add these short line railroads. But I think this is a reasonable alternative today. It makes sense and I intend to continue to support Senator Pederson's bill. I think it's a...it's a...primarily a safety issue and I think that we have an obligation to protect our citizens. Thank you.