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FLOOR DEBATE

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accident rate is for 14 1/2-year-olds. I know that the highest rate of accidents of any age category is 16-year-olds. When they first get that license, when they first begin to drive, they have a tremendous amount of power and responsibility that's under their control. Some are able to handle that very well, but I also know that young people, one of their challenges in life it seems is to test authority and to see how much more they can do than they're granted in authority to do. I want to grant them the responsibility along with the opportunity. I don't want to put them in a situation where they have too much latitude, and I think we need to have some pretty strict standards and yet some flexibility. I think the committee amendment, as we've already adopted, accomplishes that, but I think AM (sic) 1409 goes farther than we may intend to. If we want to do that, we've got that opportunity on Select File. I think right now on General File it's too soon to go that far and I'm not willing to make that decision today. I will vote against the Synowiecki amendment, if it stays before us and is taken to a vote. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Synowiecki, now you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I very much appreciate the remarks of my colleagues, particularly Senator Preister. And I've had discussions with Senator Vrtiska and we will...I will pull the amendment at this time and continue the dialogue during the intervening time, and perhaps bring it back and perhaps not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: The amendment is withdrawn. We're back to...is there anything else on the bill, Mr. Clerk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: I have nothing further pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: The question is the advancement of LB 353. I would recognize Senator Vrtiska to close on the advancement.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really don't have anything to add. I think we've pretty well discussed the bill. I would hope that you would be willing to go along with the word