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FLOOR DEBATE

April 19, 2005      LB 70, 114, 407, 673A

on...in training on motorcycles and so on. I think it's been repeated...I know it's been repeated a number of times, it's a good course. Right now, we have a problem with the statutes. If you want to get education in, though, I suggest that we allow some judgment, personal judgment here to those few people who will take the course, or those experienced riders who say, I don't want to wear a helmet, for whatever reasons. And there are reasons that we've heard over the years. It restricts your vision, restricts your hearing, it's hot, it may mess up your hair more than having nothing on. I don't know about that. I'm not worried about it, the hair problem. But right now, our statute is flawed. When you compare it with what's going on in other states around us with lower motorcycle fatality rates per registered motorcycle and so on, we have a problem. And I keep harping on education. We all agree education is a major issue in this bill. But if we're going to get education and stipulate that people take this course, then we're going to have to allow some flexibility afterwards. With that, I believe...well, I obviously do not support Senator Jensen's amendment. It...instead of striking Section...only Section 7 of Senator Beutler's amendment, it strikes Section 6 and 7, and all these other things. I don't think it would be wise to adopt that. We do have the eyewear in there. It would strike that from the bill, as I try to fit the amendment into the bill. I think that's an important facet of the bill, that we do require eyewear, protective eyewear, and so on. So I think in order to correct a wrong here, the statutes as they are now, no requirement of education, we're going to have to compromise. If you don't want education in the bill, fine, we'll probably vote the whole bill down. But I think that would be making a major mistake. With that, I would return my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Mr. Clerk, items for the record, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Raikes, an amendment to LB 407; Senator Don Pederson to LB 673A. Senator Smith would like to add his name to LB 114 as cointroducer. (Legislative Journal pages 1222-1223.)