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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 70, 71, 589, 589A, 645, 693
LR 239, 240

that opinion was clearly on the side of those who favored getting rid of the helmets, whether that was right or wrong. So what this amendment does, it seems to me, is to offer a true compromise. It allows us to settle this issue for this year. It does say, for two years helmets will be a secondary offense, but that's a huge improvement from what it was before, if you're on the side of folks who thought that the studies indicated that the helmets were protective. And then what happens at the end of two years? At the end of two years, the helmets are back, primary offense, okay? Senator Smith has his education in place. Not only that, but it's well funded--increased fees, and a requirement that we never had before, for eyewear as regulated by the State Patrol, will be required of all motorcyclists. So from the perspective of both sides, I suppose you can consider some losses. But on the other hand, there are gains to both sides. Senator Smith gets his study, Senator Smith gets his breathing period and a couple of economic cycles out there, out west, as the motorcycles go through. Senator Jensen, on the other hand, gets the helmets back in place in two years and some eyewear. And then, of course, we have the study, and we'll all be interested in what the study has to show. But the assumption here is that the study is a study, and we're all going to take a good-faith look at what it might show, and not make assumptions, as we all have up until this point in time, that the studies meant this, to date, or that the studies have meant that. So this may not be a very happy compromise from anybody's point of view, but it gets us out of this quagmire, and it gives credence to some of the arguments that both sides had to make on the floor. I intend to vote for the compromise amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Mr. Clerk, you have some announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, Enrollment and Review reports LB 645, LB 589, LB 589A to Select File. New resolutions: LR 239, Senator Landis, to be laid over; LR 240 is by Retirement Systems Committee, calling for the committee study. Amendments: Senator Landis, LB 71; Senator Chambers, LB 589; Senator Beutler to LB 693. That's all that I have. (Legislative Journal pages 1830-1833.)