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FLOOR DEBATE

February 7, 2006 LB 853, 1007

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 1007 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: LB 853, a bill by Senator Stuthman. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 4, referred to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM1986, Legislative Journal page 455.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Stuthman, you're recognized to open on LB 853.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LB 853 amends the reference dates for three specific DMV programs that are governed by federal laws. First, LB 853 adopts the most recent version of the International Registration Plan, or, commonly known as the IRP. Nebraska has been an IRP member since 1975. Membership in IRP allows trucking companies in Nebraska to pay a registration fee in Nebraska for all the states through which the company operates. The Motor Carriers Service Division of the department distributes the collected registration fees to other states based upon the mileage the carrier travels. Generally speaking, IRP has made registration of trucks traveling in interstate commerce more efficient for the industry. These amendments will allow Nebraska to follow IRP as it was revised in October 1 of 2005. LB 853 also updates the reference to federal registration governing commercial motor vehicles and the issuance of commercial driver's licenses. The change allows DMV to follow the federally regulations as they exist on January 1, 2006. It is important for Nebraska to remain in compliance with the federal law in this area. If Nebraska fails to comply with these laws, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has the authority to withhold funding from the Nebraska Motor Carriers Traffic...Carrier Safety Assistance Program and federal highway funds. Finally, the bill also updates references to federal law governing occupant protective systems, most commonly called seat belts, to incorporate the most recently published version of the federal laws through January 1 of 2006. This does not represent any change in the substantive requirements applicable to seat belts in Nebraska, but allows the state to reference the newest