

March 9, 1981

LB 22

see a hard-surfaced highway. Many of those people are farmers or their children that probably have not had too much formal training as far as safety is concerned on motorcycles, and the problem that I have with it if this bill would become law, I don't think they would still have that formal training even though they would be paying for it. As Senator Landis pointed out, probably the technical schools would provide a lot of this training and the tech schools do a good job and they cover a lot of the State of Nebraska but there is a lot of the State of Nebraska that is not covered by them in a close proximity also. So it seems to me that what we would have then would be people paying additional fees through their licensing that were, in fact, unable to avail themselves of the opportunity to get this safety training from their local schools. Many of the small schools would not be able to afford to provide this, and even though Senator Landis has a very good idea and certainly one that nobody can argue with, is provide safety, the realities of the situation are such that in my opinion, at least, that it would be very difficult to administer in rural Nebraska and would, in fact, wind up with costing some people some money that wouldn't have any way of benefiting from it. Therefore, I guess I would have to oppose LB 22.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I'm taking my minute I had left from the last. Two things, first of all, it is not mandatory and second, the cyclists, the Motorcycle Association do approve of this bill and this is, I think, very important because they fought the helmet bill like crazy and I truly believe that they are going to cooperate and not all of them, of course, but a good share of them will take this training, and it is going to be offered around the State of Nebraska. Nebraska State Safety Center will in itself, if there is enough of a class in any part of the state, they will have an instructor for this class, whether it is a tech college or not. They will do it on weekends, short courses, so that people can attend. So keep that in mind and there isn't a person in this room but what will agree that it is going to save lives and save a tremendous amount of money for the taxpayer, because if this man or woman is killed riding a motorcycle, the cost to the state could be great. They have perhaps a family to support. We have problems plus, so remember that when you vote.