

March 9, 1981

LB 22

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any further discussion on LB 22? Do you want to advance the bill, Senator Landis?

SENATOR LANDIS: I would like to close.

SENATOR CLARK: Go right ahead, advance it.

SENATOR LANDIS: Well, good. If that's the only result I can get, I will be happy to advance it. There have been a couple of arguments on the floor today that I would like to address and perhaps if you gave them your attention at that time perhaps you will give them your attention now and let me respond to them because there really are answers to those issues. One of the problems that Senator Haberman indicated was, well, gosh, isn't this a foot in the door? What happens if it becomes mandatory? How long have we had driver's education in this state? Has it become mandatory? Have we ever attempted to make driver's licenses based on driver's training? We haven't, have we? Is there any reason to expect we will do the same here? I doubt it. It requires us to delay saving lives, delay implementing a program that motorcyclists want and accept for fear that down the road some place we will have a weak-kneed Legislature that won't have the brains to figure out that we shouldn't mandate training prior to a driver's license for motorcyclists. That delays a present good on the basis of some abstract future weakness of judgment by the Legislature. I don't think that is a very fair reason to vote against the bill. This measure will save lives. Now let's think about that when we're talking about the value of LB 22 vis-a-vis the delivery system and its applicability in the rural areas. How many of you have gotten letters from rural motorcyclists saying, I resent the \$2.50 because I don't think they will be training in my area? I don't think many of you have. I would be interested in seeing those letters if you have got them on your desks. Do you have them? Do you have motorcyclists telling you they resent that \$2.50? I don't think you do. And the reason you don't is because motorcyclists as organizations are very responsible. They were consulted early on in this bill and they have supported this bill down the line. There are representatives of that. There are motorcycle riders right now out in the rotunda that support this bill. They want LB 22. They understand motorcycle training and they endorse the idea. So don't do it for their sakes that you are going to save them \$2.50. They support the idea. Will it be available in rural areas? If there is demand. We can't put a college education into every rural town. Does