

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I oppose the kill motion. This is just an option. We're not forcing anybody to do anything. These Purple Heart veterans can do this if they care to and at the committee hearing there was a number that said that they would like to do it. They could do it now if they would buy a prestige plate. They can put six letters on and we have a bill here to increase that to seven letters on a prestige plate so they could put perhaps a P, heart, number one, or two, three, four, five and six. So they could do it now if they are willing to buy a purple...or buy a prestige plate. Senator Chambers said it's a misuse of our license plates. Well, if he thinks it's a misuse, well, then we should ban all of them, then we should not allow prestige plates on our vehicles. And so I just wanted to call this to your attention. There are many other states that do this. I see nothing wrong with it. I think it's a good way to honor some of those people that have given a lot for our country and this is why I am a co-sponsor of this. I'm not a co-sponsor of it because I didn't want to say no. I felt it was a good idea. I thought that we probably should have done it years ago but we didn't, and so now I am a sponsor of this to try to pass this bill. If you oppose it, well, I guess all you'd have to do is vote for the kill motion, but I hope there is enough in this body that would vote against the kill motion and then vote to advance this bill.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Continuing the speaking order, Senator Warner is recognized for discussion of the bill.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise I guess mostly to explain my own vote and not to persuade anyone. But I happen to agree with the concept and always have, that a license plate ought to be what we originally used to call generic, that had the state and the proper identifying code and that's it. And I also appreciate, and we all know for a fact that once you start down this road there is no really good reason why you cannot add others. As an alternative which would seem to me to make more sense that would preserve the integrity of an identification system, which is what the license plate is for, perhaps a better alternative is to authorize by statute, because the law does prescribe to some extent what can and cannot be on a motor vehicle, that you have a variety of