

fall under that category.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, that's what I wanted to be sure of. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I would just like to state a few facts to you. Senator Conway explained the bill very good but let me cite a few facts that I received from the National Transportation Safety Board. They say that more people are killed while involved in boating than any other mode of transportation except highways. Two-thirds of all boating fatalities...or of all boating fatalities involve alcohol and one-third of those had a blood content of .10 or higher. Ninety percent of the recreational boating fatalities are the result of drowning and alcohol has been present in 67 percent of all drowning victims. There are two other important factors involved in drinking and boating and one factor concerns the effects of alcohol in your body when you are in the water. The second concerns general stress factors involved in boating and water recreation. There is a tendency to become disoriented when you are in cold water. This disorienting factor can be greatly magnified when you have alcohol in your blood. The effects of alcohol on your balance are increased when cold water comes into contact with your inner ear. Good swimmers have not survived the shock and the panic of a sudden plunge into cold water. Alcohol seriously adds to this dilemma. People who boat for recreational purposes usually do so for several consecutive hours. They are exposed to extra noise, wind, glare, vibration and bouncing around on the water, becoming oriented to being in a boat on water and so on. These factors alone cause stress and may lower a person's normal functions. Again, alcohol greatly increases these effects especially if the person has been drinking under these circumstances for a few hours. On water, there are no traffic signals. There are no lanes of traffic, no stop signs, no crosswalks and no speed limit on lakes. And Lewis and Clark Lake is located along the 19th District, also the Missouri River borders my legislative district. These factors are greatly...these factors that I talked about greatly increase the safety problems in boating and I just feel that this bill is a reasonable protection for people who enjoy water sports on Nebraska lakes and rivers. And one additional point about the bill, the bill also states that it is against the law to operate