

bill. And another part of the amendment clarifies the language for those school buses of 15 passengers and lower. There is no change, there is no change. Let me repeat, no change in the driver's license requirements for those small buses, 15 passenger and lower. The amendment clarifies the language in the bill so that it's clear that there is no change from the present situation as far as those small buses are concerned. Now the larger buses, 16 and over, the federal mandate is that those drivers do have the commercial driver's license. And there is nothing actually this Legislature can do about that, if you do not want to risk the loss of federal highway funds. The penalty is 5 percent of the highway funds the first year, if we do not comply; 10 percent of the highway funds the second year, if we do not comply. However, by delaying the implementation date until September 1, 1990, that means that those people have another year in which to prepare for the situation, another year to get a commercial driver's license in order to drive a school bus. Actually, the requirement is not too tough. It's not a lot tougher than what they're doing now for those big buses. The physical is exactly the same as the physical they're taking now. No change in the physical. There are more questions. There are more questions on the exam. And that, primarily, is the only difference. They will be available in...the testing stations will be available in every county. The first proposals were that there would be regional test centers, but they will be available in every county under the terms of the bill, except I understood that Sarpy County and Douglas County wanted to have a regional facility. And I understood there was going to...Senator Withem and Senator Beyer were going to have the amendment, which was just withdrawn. But maybe they have a new version of the amendment, which would allow those counties that want to get together, instead of having a testing facility in each county then at their option, if they want to combine, that certainly would be acceptable and I would support the amendment which probably is coming in that regard. So, basically, we're delaying the implementation of the bill. We would like to have the bill passed this year so that it is on the books, people can study it, and then we will have next session to make any needed changes that may be apparent. This is a fairly heavy bill and we want to be sure it's right before we go whole hog with it. So, by passing it this year with this amendment, we can revisit the issue next year, if that is...seems prudent.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the motion to return the bill. Senator Elmer, followed by Senators Crosby and