

they look through their regular glasses. As of 1989, 27 states license bioptic drivers. The Pages are passing out a description of the use of bioptic telescopes for drivers from the American Optometric Association. They are also passing out another handout prepared by the Department of Motor Vehicles that describes in detail the vision standards of all the states and specifically the requirements of the 27 states that license bioptic or telescopic lenses. In 1988, the Legislature addressed this issue in an amendment to LB 1008 brought by Senators Johanns, Withem, Schmit and others. However, Governor Orr vetoed that bill because minimum vision standards was stated. Specifically, the standards specified in LB 1008 were deemed to be unsafe by the American Medical Association. In contrast, LB 742 continues to delegate the responsibility of adopting visual acuity standards through the Department of Motor Vehicles. However, LB 742 reinforces in statute that a bioptic or a telescopic visual aid can be used to meet the necessary visual acuity standards. These drivers who would meet the requirements using bioptic or telescopic lenses would have to renew their driver's licenses annually. In addition, like all other applicants the low vision drivers would have to prove their ability to drive to an examiner. They would have to prove their competence to drive. In summary, this bill is brought by a group of long-term drivers who have been caught, they just have been caught in an administrative knothole. When they went to renew their driver's licenses over the last several years they found they were ineligible to even take a driver's test. Most of them have driven for years without accidents or incidents. They are really safe drivers, they are just like you and me, they depend on their driving ability for their independence and this bill would restore their privilege to drive. I ask your support of this measure. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the advancement of 742, Senator Haberman, followed by Senators Smith, Crosby and Wesely.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Robak, would you yield for three questions, please?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Robak, would you respond?

SENATOR ROBAK: Yes.

SENATOR HABERMAN: The first question, Senator Robak, is that