

SENATOR ROBAK: The new administrator did not believe in the use of bioptic or telescopic lenses, to my opinion.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And it's that simple?

SENATOR ROBAK: Yes, yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SENATOR ROBAK: There was a change of administration and then they changed the rules and their policy. We did not change the law. There has never been a law in statute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, thank you. Mr. President, that is all I have. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion, Senator Withem, followed by Senators Lynch and Robak.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this. I'm sorry I was not here earlier this morning when it was first introduced. Maybe a lot of this has been covered, but if it isn't...hasn't, I'd like to share with you some of the background on this type of legislation. Along about the time this gentleman by the name of Mr. Kennedy came to his position in the administration and I think probably to, you know, characterize it as the Orr administration might be somewhat unfair to the Governor. I don't think she had any direct actions involving this. But about the time he became director of the particular division over there that he did, he interpreted the rules and regulations and the law to not grant him the ability to grant these waivers that he had before, I think was, you know, the technical justification that he used. I think Senator Robak's discussion of the motivation is probably accurate but his technical rationale was that he just did not read the statute to grant him the authority to give waivers. Prior to that time these people had been driving, I guess, is the key point. A number of us in here began getting contacted. I was one, I know both Senator Robak and her predecessors up in Columbus were contacted, Senator Schmit. Other people were contacted by individuals who had been lifelong safe drivers, did, in fact, have some problems with the vision requirements that currently existed, but they had driven for years and years without accidents, without