

March 4, 1991

LB 286, 336

LB 286? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of 286.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 286 is advanced. LB 336.

CLERK: LB 336 was a bill introduced by the Transportation Committee. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 16, referred to Transportation, advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the committee, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the body, this bill is a Transportation Committee bill. There are committee amendments that you will find in your bill book. And, roughly, I will go through them for you in a section-by-section basis. They do not take away from the main thrust of the bill, but they are probably amendments that further clarify. To give you a brief overview, this is the bill that would raise the driver's license age to 17, a bill that you probably have heard, except that if you take a driver's training course and thus you can get the license back at the original age of 16, something that is done in many states across the country. The amendments, the committee amendment...specifically this course can be offered, about half of our school districts in the state do offer a driver education course of some kind that would qualify. The other half cut out driver education classes in the mid-eighties, when we had budget cuts and so on, and as a result those classes were no longer offered. At the same time the money was cut from those programs, we saw a dramatic increase in accidents in this state and saw inclines of fatalities, alcohol related accidents, injury accidents, and so on due to the lack of driver education. The bill does not mandate, I repeat, it does not mandate that schools must fund these programs and it will increase the taxes, not the purpose of the bill at all. However, the committee amendment clarifies who can provide these programs. The course may be offered by any school district, any community college, any educational service unit, the Nebraska Safety Center, or any other public or private entity approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. This will place this course in the Department of Motor Vehicles, this is not a Department of Education program. It is solely designed for traffic, and