

driver safety, and driver education. If the program is not offered, because many of us don't have maybe a course or an institution in their county that offers this program, the Nebraska Safety Center is mandated that they must offer an approved course at least once a year in the county where no other approved course is otherwise offered. And so there was a clarification there of who could offer it. We just merely spelled out that it is the community colleges and the service units are other entities, public or private, that the Department of Motor Vehicles will approve. The other concern came out of committee, and that was, well, what are these courses really going to look like, and what are we going to do? And so what we did, as an amendment to that, was adopt an advisory council that will help review the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding these driver safety courses. The Advisory Committee shall consist of a representative from the property casualty insurance industry, law enforcement, the Safety Center, a service unit, and a member at large. They will only receive their actual and necessary expenses to do so. These people will be appointed by the Director of Motor Vehicles. This is not a governmental...Governor appointed program, one done by the Department of Motor Vehicles. I will be offering an amendment, general amendment and not a Transportation Committee amendment, a little later on the discussion of this, dealing with losing and having your...to take this course again if you have two moving violations. There are several statistics for us to look at. As way of introduction, our younger drivers in this state, between the ages of 15 and 24, represent a little over 19 percent of all the registered drivers, yet they're involved in over 36 percent of all the accidents, they're involved in over 37 percent of all the injury accidents, and they're involved in 32 percent of all the fatal accidents. They have a higher, much higher percentage of occurrence with these accidents and injuries. Now, we in the committee have also had a wide variety of bills this year dealing with alcohol, drunk driving, motorcycle safety. Every one that comes in and talks to us in the committee says what we need is more education, more education, we could...we're not going to do a very good job with drunk driving, for example, by strengthening penalties, in the long run. In the long run what it takes is better driver education and better education in the use and availability to the education for more of our young people. This bill is the result of a task force, there has been a Nebraska Driver Education Promotion Task Force that has been in work for the