

May 10, 1991

LB 854, 855

opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 855.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 855 is advanced. Proceed with LB 856. We will go to LB 854.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 854 was introduced by the Appropriations Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on May 1, referred to the Transportation Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Transportation Committee. (See AM1686 found on page 2026 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. The committee did hold a hearing on LB 854. There was testimony on both sides of this issue, and let me give you a little bit of a background and history of where we are at because this morning you will have some discussions about the commercial driver's license. Congress passed a Motor Vehicle Safety Act in about 1986, and that has a very important date. And if any of you are writing your newsletters, you should mention this bill because this is extremely important to a lot of commercial drivers, because starting April 1, 1992, they are not going to have a job. You can't believe it, Senator Landis, it is true. Starting April 1st of 1992, unless you have a commercial driver's license under the new federal standards issued by the state, you are out of a job. You cannot drive. You will not be able to do it. The industry has been out with their newsletters. They need to do more. As individuals, we need to examine and tell people that they are not going to be able to operate if they don't meet these minimum federal standards. Starting September 1st of last year, we began, as a state, to administer the commercial driver's license, and we have been issuing those licenses as their birthdays come up. That is you know, like your regular personal driver's license, when your year is divisible by four. Now what has happened here is that not everyone is going to be able to get their driver's license because some of their birthdays will come up on or after April 1, 1992. So there was a bill introduced in the Legislature that we passed giving you a window of opportunity to come in and take this driver's license. We are trying to get