

Special Education students and 11 independent living class members from Fremont Senior High. Would you all rise and be recognized. Thank you. Now I will recognize senators wishing to debate the committee amendments in the following order: Senator Beyer, Wehrbein, Moore, Nelson, and Chizek. Senator Beyer.

SENATOR BEYER: Well, Madam Speaker and colleagues, this was a hard one for me. I've sat on the committee all through the years that we've had discussion here on the CDL, we went through the fee structure, and worked on it, and I fully understand the appropriations process and some of the cost. Being in the industry and having been my livelihood for a lot of years, I can understand any costs that are going to cost drivers because it is a hard one for them to come up with the money, but I also understand the ramifications to the state. The compromise that was kind of worked out was to go ahead and allow them to apply for their licenses early, which includes me. I carry a CC license at the present time. Mine is not due until '93, but it has to be renewed prior to '92. So with this extra month, basically, or until between June 1st and September 1st, we will allow these drivers to come in. It will put an overload on the hearing examiners although actually it does not take them any longer to have a group of drivers in there taking a test than it does to be one on one. The department pointed out that there was a shortfall in the fact that that does not cover it. In questioning them, there also is a shortfall on regular driver's license, and I seriously considered putting an amendment in that would have raised the regular driver's license to help cut that shortfall, but in the arguments of putting this bill to a committee hearing the other day, I would be going against what I argued for then, that we needed to have a hearing on it, and would not have been fair to the automobile people or the people getting a regular driver's license in having a hearing on raising their fees. It is something that we, as a committee, agreed to and needs to be looked at in order to try and make fees cover the actual cost. So with that, I will be supporting the committee amendments, and we as an industry, hope that we will be able to get this settled and everybody be able to get their CDLs between now and the regular time. It does give a lot of them an advantage of an incentive to come in to save the \$20. Those that don't will have to, I guess, be the ones to suffer a little bit and pay the higher fee. But I think it will be an incentive to get people to come and get their licenses sooner so that we do not run into a problem in '92 with those drivers not