

January 21, 1992 LB 336

require them to do it, no. Senator Kristensen is probably a better person to ask than me. He may accuse me of misleading you.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I will wait a while, Mr. Speaker, until I get my facts here.

SPEAKER BAACK: Okay, Senator Haberman. Senator Bernard-Stevens, you're next.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Briefly, Mr. President, I rise to oppose the bill. I think, for the most part though, Senator Kristensen has been very straightforward to say this is not mandated. I think we all know if we...if we don't know, if we evaluate the system of where it's been in the past, we know that the burden will fall on the public schools. I look at the vote that we had that Senator Moore asked for a record vote on on funding and I find it kind of curious that we would like to go ahead, and some of us in the body, not myself, but some members of the body would like to go ahead and mandate driver's ed for a license which we know will cause those people to try to get into driver's ed because they need to for their licensing, but we know it will come from the schools. We know it will take money out of the schools. And, by the way, it also takes a period of the day within a school. So, instead of a child taking a math course or a science course, they're now going to have to take a driver's ed course so they can...they can get their driver's license, where we want...some members of the body want to do that. But, on the same token, we did not want to fund it. We don't want to put any money into it. Why does the body even think that school districts, themselves, will want to put money into programs that we, ourselves, don't want to do? Why don't we want to do it? Because money is very tight. It may take from some areas that we really need the money and that's exactly what the public schools have been saying, don't put the great demand on us because we'll be forced to do something to try and provide that, there will be monies that will be lost, we don't have the abilities right now or the desire to do so. Students can now get driver's ed, if they so desire. This bill is not...does not change that. There are possibilities there. There are safety requirements there. They have to meet the safety requirements before they can get a license. We know, as Senator Hartnett was talking about, it sometimes doesn't make any difference on whether you have driver's ed or not in regards to accidents, there are numbers either way. The point is if

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