

you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Any discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you wish to close, Senator Kristensen? We will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Now we are on the bill, as amended. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, LB 319 increases the registration fee for motorcycles in the state from \$4.50 to \$6. The increase, the additional dollar and a half will go into the Motorcycle Safety Education Fund. That fund is available through the Department of Motor Vehicles for riders, promoting motorcycle education. It has been well used and the problem is there has been less motorcycles registered in the state as motorcycle ridership is down. However, the safety program has been very effective. What this program will do is it needs the additional fees. The dollar and a half will not be unduly burdensome. The motorcycle coalitions, the people who are interested in motorcycle safety testified in behalf of this and were very, very supportive as was the Department of Motor Vehicles and Highway Safety in promoting this fund. There were no opponents to this. I would urge its adoption. I believe that it's a needed fund to increase the amount of money to keep this program going. If we do not do this, the program will run out of money by the end of the year and there will be no motorcycle safety programs in the State of Nebraska. With that, I would urge the adoption and move the bill from General to Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, just to dovetail what Senator Kristensen said. As he mentioned, if this bill does not pass and the fee is not increased, the fund will run out of money before the end of the year and, obviously, one, if... unless General Funds is added to the fund, we'll have to stop or at least next year, unless we do something like this, if we want it to continue and do not want to raise the Cash Fund, we're going