

February 5, 1992 LB 291

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no other lights on, Senator Beutler, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just to remind you once again of what the amendment does. Some would argue probably that all of Section 7 should be stricken and that we ought not to be creating this new offense and maybe that will be addressed at a later point in time but the amendment before you at this moment in time is a compromise. It says, yes, we will acknowledge this new crime. It says, yes, it will be a Class III misdemeanor which again I remind you is a tougher penalty, a tougher maximum penalty than drunken driving itself is for an adult which I would argue is disproportionate. But anyway we're leaving that in as part of the compromise and the only thing being stricken in this particular amendment is the provision that would allow also, on top of the other two penalties, the third penalty of taking the license in particular situations. So I would hope that you would see fit to restore some proportionality to this whole situation and at least get it back in perspective with relative penalties that we can all look at them, look at one from another to another and say, yes, they are in some kind of reasonable proportion. That's all this amendment would do. And I think that, from a philosophic point of view, this is going to be important to young people because I don't see how you can look at this bill and be a young person and think anything other than, yeah, there is a different law for different classes of people. And I don't think that's the kind of thinking that we want to breed into our young people. I think what we want to instill them with is the idea that we're all responsible regardless of our age, that we all have the same standards to live by, that we're all Americans and that we all have the same standards to be punished by and I think that this particular amendment brings us a little bit closer back to that kind of thinking. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the closing on the amendment to the committee amendments as offered by Senator Beutler. We will now vote on the amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Senator Beyer.

SENATOR BEYER: Have a call of the house, Mr. Speaker, so everybody gets on the record.