

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I'd like to have a little discussion with Senator Kristensen, if I may, Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Kristensen, you are on again.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR PREISTER: What I am interested in is, as the dialogue has gone on with the increase in the speed limit and the changes on the highway, I don't recall hearing anything about the types of signs that would be used to designate the speed limits. This country it seems has been in a process for many, many years of changing to a metric system. If that process is going to go through at some point, and we are now in the process of changing signs because we are increasing the speed limits, has there been any dialogue, any discussion about using miles per hours versus kilometers, maybe that has taken place, but I wasn't aware of it, and I just want to use this opportunity for clarification.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay, there has been in the past a federal requirement, in fact a federal law that would require us to go to a metric system. In fact, this state has converted to a metric system in its design and plan specifications. In terms of road and speed posting in kilometers as opposed to mile an hour, every time they come close to the mandate being about 18 months to two years away, Congress pushes it back, pushes it back. In effect right now, it is not a factor. Every indication I get is that we are not going to be changing, at least from a federal mandate, miles per hours to kilometers. Not a federal reality at this point in time, and given the new Congress, it is even less of a possibility. We had considered that, in fact as of two or three years ago we, in fact we had looked at making all of those changes and making the change. The statute, and Senator Chambers' bill obviously doesn't dictate what, how the signs are going to look, they are going to be done like we do before. Some of the changes may be as simple as a vinyl change of the speed and then as a, you know, as they get hit by snow plows or shot at or whatever occurs, then they will probably replace them with a permanent painted number. But, that is the reason they want to do this study and make some of these changes first so they don't go out and post everything at 60 and then go back and redo them at 65.