

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 12, 1999 LB 356

and again on February 25. I do have amendments pending to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, would you like to bring us up to date on LB 356.

SENATOR BYARS: Certainly. Thank you, Senator Cudaback. It gives me...it gives me tremendous pleasure this morning to begin discussion on LB 356 with Senator Chambers' handout telling you "Horrors! I Have Erred!" Now don't read the rest of it. Just...just understand that Senator Chambers has erred and I'm certain, as discussion will follow, he's going to become a tremendous supporter of this legislation. But I think you all ought to frame this because I'm not certain you'll see it often in the halls of this body. Let me bring you up to date a bit on where we are with LB 356. As you're aware, it was bracketed to March 30, put in the line of senators' priority bills, and brought back to you this morning. I...I have not in any way changed my passion for the...for how I feel about how important changing the seat belt law in the state of Nebraska is from a secondary to a primary offense. I have actually, through the period of time since we last discussed this bill, only become more firm in my conviction that what I'm attempting to do with this legislation is absolutely the right thing to do, and it is so absolutely simple in what the bill wishes to accomplish. The discussion that we've had for just over four hours, the discussion we'll have in the future basically becomes peripheral to the subject itself. Obviously, those, such as myself, attempting to convince you of the validity and the necessity for making this change, and others who might have questions about that validity and who indeed do oppose or wish to find ways to make it better, that it's quite simple. In this state we have a statute that allows you to be stopped and ticketed for the failure to wear a safety belt, safety restraint, seat belt, if you will, only if you have been stopped for another offense, so it becomes secondary. In this piece of legislation, we change the statute to allow any individual to be stopped that is not wearing their safety restraint, their seat belt, if you will, for a primary purpose. You don't, under this statute, you don't have to be stopped for another violation to be ticketed. Fine: \$25, one point assessed against your driving record in the event that you are stopped and found guilty of that offense. It's