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May 5, 1999

LB 176

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Smith, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Regarding Section 8, it states that a person under sixteen years of age shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state unless a person seventeen years of age or older is aboard the personal watercraft. I would suggest to you that this would encourage two people riding on a personal watercraft that may not be safe, safely operated under those conditions. I believe that, and I know from personal experience that this is less safe sometimes, when there are two people on there, and more difficult to manage, and I think that this particular section would encourage the unsafe operation of the personal watercraft. Moving to Section 9, if Senator Hilgert would yield for some clarification.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, I will try.

SENATOR SMITH: As I understand it, personal watercraft could be operated by someone or a 14-year-old could rent a personal watercraft as long as they could produce the certification of the training, is that right?

SENATOR HILGERT: That's correct.

SENATOR SMITH: And are there...do you know what the procedures might be to make sure that only 14-year-olds are taking the training so that, say, a 12- or 13-year-old did not take the training, obtain certifi...and then be able to present that?

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, I would believe that the Game and Parks Commission, who have ably administered our hunter safety courses over the several years, would have those done administratively as far as verification of ages and so forth. I would imagine they might ask for a birth certificate or some such identification but, no, I did not go into that detail. I would leave that up to the commission to promulgate such screening and verification procedures.