

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 18, 1999

LB 176

charge a fee of not more than \$10 for the boat safety course required under this bill. We discussed that to some extent, I think, when we were discussing the bill in committee, but nothing formally was really done on it, and after doing some checking since that time, I think a \$10 fee would be...would be a nominal fee that I think is appropriate. Many of these personal watercraft or jet skies cost several thousand dollars. I think it's very important that we have a safety course. I don't think the \$10 fee for the course is at all unreasonable for anybody that wants to ride personal watercraft. I also think that a nominal or small fee like that can help encourage some...a person taking some interest and some responsibility for participating in the course. It's not...it's almost a freebie but it's not a freebie when there's a \$10 tag attached to it, and I would...my understanding is that this would raise about \$50,000 a year which would help, to some extent, defray the cost of operating the program. There are going to be expenses involved and this wouldn't pay for it all but it would be...would be something. I would ask the body to consider the adoption of AM1817.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the Bromm amendment? Senator Coordsen. Senator Coordsen. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I rise in somewhat of a neutral position on this and I'll tell you why. First of all, when we have our hunter safety course, that's free. We don't ask our children to pay a fee and we certainly could. I have another concern that was brought to me from Game and Parks which is a negative concern regarding the amendment, is basically that the instruction that we try to do regarding personal watercraft is going to be done by a lot of volunteers, volunteer instructors. My brother, in fact, was a volunteer instructor on a hunter safety course many years ago. Well, anyway, these volunteers don't like handling money. When you have volunteers in the process of collecting a \$10 bill and so forth, and you get into bookkeeping, et cetera, and they...and the Game and Parks' position was is that it would dissuade people and kind of inhibit people from wanting to volunteer to do this instruction. Now they said, on the other hand, that they could require that the \$10 be sent in to the Game and Parks and that just...it kind of makes some more work for them, and I