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LB 176

for...in the Bohlke amendment, basically a 15-year-old cannot use one of these vehicles even if they are educated, you know, so be it. But I do believe that this...something has to be done as far as the minimum age. If...I do plan on submitting an amendment that lists the minimum age as 14, so that 16-, 15- and 14-year-olds would have to take the safety course. No one under 14 could operate a jet ski. If the Bohlke slash Matzke amendment passes and it is the wish of this body that 16-year-olds only take the course and no one under 16 be allowed to operate a personal watercraft, I will withdraw my amendment making the minimum age 14. I will withdraw my amendment making the minimum age 14 if the body adopts this amendment. So you will have a choice. If you adopt this amendment, fine. That's the way we'll go. I'll withdraw mine and we'll move on to advance the bill, hopefully. If the Bohlke amendment is not adopted, then you'll have the opportunity to look at the age of 14. I do understand that we may get into the situation where a senator might say, well, let's go for 12, 8, 15. That...and someone once said this was...yes, Senator Hartnett goes down to 2. He had smarter children, I guess, but...(laugh)...better gene pool perhaps, I don't know. I...but all Jack's attributes, I'm sure, comes from Cara. But, you know, this is not a simple bill. Someone once said, Senator Hilgert, the one thing you learn is that you don't want to bring bills that everyone can understand on the floor. It's best to have these huge multi-page concepts that everyone just kind of reads the summary and then say, well, this is something everyone can understand so we're probably in for...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR HILGERT: ...a certain amount of time on haggling, if you will, over the minimum age of operating personal watercrafts. I will go with the body if they want to adopt the Bohlke-Matzke amendment. I have no problems with it. I'll probably vote green on it, and then I will withdraw my amendment that I filed going to 14, so we're not going to prolong this thing. So I just wanted to make that very clear lest someone becomes confused on looking at their gadgets and seeing that I have an amendment pending immediately after Bohlke's amendment. If Senator Bohlke's is adopted, I will withdraw mine. Thank you.