

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

January 26, 2000 LB 410

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Thompson, you are recognized to close on your amendment to the Baker amendment. She waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the Thompson amendment to AM2096. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Thompson's AM2130.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The amendment is adopted. Next item.

CLERK: Senator Thompson and Byars would move to amend the Baker amendment with AM2131, Mr. President. (AM2131, Legislative Journal page 446.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Thompson, you are recognized to open.

SENATOR THOMPSON: This is the amendment that will make this a secondary offense for the five to fifteen year age, fifteen-year-old group, and this is a compromise. The original bill would have made it a primary offense, but I do think it's a step we can take, we can take with more support, perhaps, but at least it is a first step and it will have a significant impact. I've passed out to you information from Nebraska's Highway Safety Office, and it shows seat belt usage rates in the state for the last 15 years. And if you will notice in 1992, the Nebraska seat belt use rate was 32...33 percent, while the U.S. rate was 62 percent. Once the seat belt law took effect in 1993, and in the subsequent years, in 1993, seat belt usage moved to 54 percent, today, it's 68 percent, but this chart only goes through 1998. So now we have moved seat belt use to 65 percent. The national rate is 69 percent. Not all that can be attributed to passing a law, but it certainly on this chart looks like it contributed significantly to the willingness of people to buckle up and probably to more public education campaigns. But if you look at the overall 1985 to 1998 chart, clearly there was a jump once we made seat belt use a secondary offense. So, hopefully, this will help us take those steps, encourage people to make sure that children in their car are buckled up. They will receive a ticket if they're stopped for another offense. It is the law if this bill passes. So I urge