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LB 1018

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Thompson?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes, and the answer is yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, I simply cannot agree with this amendment. Looking at these vehicles, I think an all-terrain vehicle is more ruggedly built than these. If one of these tipped over, everybody falls out. If you have children driving these vehicles, they might race them, they might go on a different highway. You cannot determine what they're going to do when they get in one of these vehicles. And let's say the parents say, well you're not going to ride in it, so maybe they go out steal one, and it's a motor vehicle. This is something that I think does require more serious attention than can be given to it here. And I really don't believe it should go on this bill. We've had enough problems with LB 1018, and there's an aspect of LB 1018, as it exists now, that I think I've worked out an agreement with Senator Bromm on, in terms of language we're going to strike. Trying to work with that bill as it exists is hard enough. If you look at the pictures of these vehicles, I don't see how anybody could say that those ought to be allowed on the highway as though they are motor vehicles. Those could be driven in any city in state where there is a speed limit no greater than 30 miles an hour. So here you are in downtown Omaha, any street in Omaha where the speed limit is not more than 30 miles an hour, and I doubt that people are going to restrict themselves, if they're riding it in a city, to the streets where the speed limit is only 30 miles an hour. So it is a policy decision that is being made. I don't know what these vehicles are constructed from, but when you look at the picture it might be... I was going to say styrofoam, but they call it Plexiglas or fiberglass or something like that. And all of the conversations that we've had in the past about forcing people to wear seat belts so they'll be safe, how many of you really think that, if you're in one of these vehicles and you're in city traffic and you get struck by a car, that having a seat belt in this flimsy vehicle is going to save you? The vehicle itself is not safe. I don't know why the Department of Motor Vehicles would agree to this, but apparently they have. But if this is added by the body, I'm going to offer an amendment to allow all-terrain vehicles to be driven on the same streets under the same conditions as these little, little tinker