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FLOOR DEBATE

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maintained. And if you're going to tow a load that's 80,000 pounds-plus, you have to have somebody in that truck that knows what they're doing. They are required to register with the State Patrol, if you are in the business of towing disabled trucks. It has become a problem. We modeled this legislation after a Missouri statute which eliminates all length restrictions for pulling a disabled load. Now, keep in mind, if the load is already illegal, in other words, if the truck is illegal on the road right now, in other words, it's too long, why, then of course it could be fined for that problem. But most of your tractor-trailers that you see on the road, if it's a single trailer, the trailer is 53 foot long. You put a tractor on there, you could increase that length anywhere from 15 to 25 foot. Then you put a 25-foot tow truck on top of it, and the 95 foot becomes inadequate. And having to uncouple the tractor to make two tows is not practical, and it takes more time, and it's probably more prudent to get that disabled vehicle off the road in an orderly manner, to the...and this allows them to do that, to the nearest secure place. It was brought to me by a tow truck company out of Kearney, Nebraska. Didn't appear to have any opposition on the floor of the Legislature. Senator Pederson had a similar bill, but his just increased the limit; it didn't take off all limits. I think this is the practical approach, not to mention...I'm not trying to say my bill is better than Senator Pederson's. Either one would have been sufficed...would have been sufficient, and it would have been better than what we have now. Finally, I would say, I think our policy should facilitate quick and safe removal of these disabled vehicles, for the benefit of the tow operators, and the public, and especially on the Interstate when there's a lot of traffic. Let's get them off of there in the most orderly manner possible. Like I said, you're not going to have incompetent people running these trucks. They're heavy, these tow trucks. They're heavy. They're equipped and made to remove these disabled vehicles from the road. With that, I would appreciate your consideration on LB 137. I do have a chart that shows the different various sizes of vehicles on the state of Nebraska. And I will tell you, in the future, I think the vehicles that we are operating on our roads are going to get heavier, and they're going to get longer, because of efficiency standards. I think the federal government will help us out on