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FLOOR DEBATE

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amendment, Senator, AM0045, found on Journal page 299.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, initially this is, I would say, the towing bill. This is the one that has to do with a disabled vehicle on the highway. The current law provides that the limit from the front to the back of the towing vehicle and the towed vehicle, for one that's disabled, is 95 feet. As I mentioned the other day, I filed a bill proposal that would increase that distance to 125 feet, which at that time I concluded, from everybody that I had talked to, would be the maximum length that anybody would have under these circumstances. The committee adopted Senator Schrock's proposal, which was to make the length unlimited. In other words, it wouldn't make any difference from front to back what the length of the unit was; it would be legal to remove a disabled vehicle under those conditions. The basis for the...for what the committee did and what Senator Schrock had proposed was the criteria that was used in Missouri, and I've looked and Missouri is the only state in our area that has unlimited carrying length like that. And, accordingly, I felt that this was not good policy for us to be adopting an unlimited length for the vehicles, and I'm thinking primarily of the two-lane highways that we have. If you've ever tried to pass something that was a great length on a two-lane road, you know it's very dangerous in itself. I recognize the need for removing these disabled vehicles because it's a safety hazard itself to have these vehicles on the road. But I think we need to have a limit for this and, accordingly, I have proposed that we make this limit 130 feet by my amendment. It was spoken of on the floor that absolutely the maximum that we could have under the current circumstances would be 128 feet, and that was one of the members of the committee. Senator Jones had said that he'd looked at it and that was the maximum length you could have. So I said, okay, let's go to 130 feet, but let's have a limitation on the length of the towed and towing vehicles. And so, for that reason, I have proposed that and, in addition to that, I have added an E clause which will cause this to go into effect right away. I know that some towers, specifically the one that brought the bill to me, said, I'm not going to tow