

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

April 8, 2003 LB 303, 513

consent request from Senator Byars. Senator Byars would move to bracket the bill until Tuesday, April 22, 2003.

SPEAKER BROMM: Are there any objections to the motion? Seeing none, it is so ordered. Mr. Clerk, do you have any messages or announcements at this time?

CLERK: I do not at this time, Mr. President. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: We'll then go to LB 303.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill, LB 303, is a bill by Senator Smith. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13 of this year, at that time referred to the Transportation Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0159, Legislative Journal page 502.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Smith, you're recognized to open on LB 303.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. It's been an interesting last few years, as this issue has been brought up relating to whether or not a motorcycle rider should go with or without a helmet, and if he or she decides or chooses to do that, what should prepare them to do so. And the gist of this bill, as I'm sure will come out over the next few minutes of discussion, boils down to, if you are 21 years of age, take a two-day safety training course, that has actually proven to be very effective, and provide protective eyewear, and prove health insurance, you can make that informed decision to go without a helmet. Would I rather not have all those stipulations? Sure. Because I believe that it is a personal decision whether or not to go without a helmet. But through years of discussion and effort to compromise, if you will, the stipulations have been attached. And I realize that not everyone sees those in the same light as I do. But I believe that we can, through the course of this debate, talk about some very useful information and arrive at public policy that will not result in the carnage and mayhem that some folks who don't have all the information would lead you to believe. Let me talk about the things that