

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

April 8, 2003

LB 303

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I want to get back to what I consider probably, to me, the most important part of this bill, and that's the training concept; that people, if they're going to do this, they have to go through the training. And I do have some experience with family members who have been long-time riders. They live in Colorado, don't have to wear a helmet, but they took the training course anyway. And I think that we're missing a big part of this bill when we don't address how stringent these training requirements are and what they tend to learn in these classes. I've been preoccupied with other issues today besides the bill and I apologize for that, but Senator Schimek was asking questions about the course and so on. It would be a course that would be offered by, in this case, probably private industry, private individuals, groups, but they'd have to, of course, maintain or adhere to the standards set forth by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Back to the course though, it's standardized. It's pretty much same course used across the nation by all the states. My family members that took the course, long-time riders, used to live in Nebraska, moved to Colorado and decided they were going to take this course. It cost them \$250. It took basically most of four days, is what it was. It was two weekends and they went as many hours as they could. The equipment was furnished by the person offering the course. In this case, I think it's a company out in Denver. And these are long-time, experienced riders, adults obviously, and they said everybody should take this course. They learned more from that course in these four days of class than they could believe, and they came back just saying, shaking their head, why shouldn't everyone have to take this course regardless? And these are experienced riders. And they do not wear helmets all the time in Colorado. I do know that a couple of my family members use them around more so when they're riding within the cities out there than they do when they're out on the wide-open spaces, but they're some of the group that, yes, they go to Sturgis each year and they have a good time on their big old bikes, and one of these times, I retire from here, maybe I'll join them. But I think we need to focus on the training aspect. It's apparently a fairly difficult course and even for experienced riders who have never had it, there's an awfully lot of material in there that they learn from this course, so I want to stress that. This is sort of like Senator Tyson's bill of