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LB 303

thing. That's important. No operator shall...and I would guess if I'd read a few of these to Senator Smith, which I thought about doing just to be annoying I suppose, but we have...I bet a lot of you are surprised that we even have to put that in law that you got to have your hands on the handlebars and you got to face forward on a motorcycle. No person shall carry any person, nor shall any person ride in a position that interferes with the operation or control of the motorcycle, and if you have a passenger, they have to have footrests. Sounds like a good thing, but I don't see any reason to make that secondary. That should be something you get ticketed for. And we even tell you about how far the handlebars should be mounted on your bike. No person shall operate any motorcycle with handlebars more than 15 inches above the mounting point of the handlebars. I don't think we want to get into every aspect of our safety law and weaken it. It is the reason that the Legislature chose to put this into effect, and if I can get to the page, I think the intent language was very important. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that head injuries that occur to motorcyclists and moped operators which could be prevented or lessened by the wearing of helmets are a societal problem, and that the financial and emotional costs of such injuries cannot be viewed solely on a personal level. This is the current law of the state. It is the intent of the Legislature to prevent injuries and fatalities which occur due to motorcycle and moped accidents, and to prevent the subsequent damage to society which results due to the cost of caring for injured people, the pain and suffering which accompany such injuries and fatalities, and the loss of productive members of society from such injuries. I don't think we should change or weaken that law. I don't think we should make it a secondary offense. I think there are reasons over the years that we have supported these safety initiatives in our law. This is a safety initiative. If we move it to a secondary offense,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...a person would have to be stopped for riding backwards on a motorcycle, carrying a package, not having their passenger have footrests, or have their handlebars 15 inches above the mounting point. Now what's the change of that