

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

April 11, 2003 LB 305

operate a motorboat or a watercraft without a safety course. So there is a fairly good segment that will be effective January 1 of '04. That's all those under 18, and that's motorboats and personal watercraft. Adding motorboats I think is huge, and I'm not saying it's a bad idea, but it's huge. And I think I would like to see how the public reacts and have as much notice as possible. We had a public hearing and all of that. I see on the...there were some testifiers, certainly, but I think this is a...this is a pretty big...it's a pretty big change, I think, and so I just...I would like to see it considered carefully. I would have thought we would have gone from maybe 18 to 21 or something like that. We've gone forever with nothing on motorboats, and I don't think that's probably right, but we go to 16 now, we go to 18 in 8 months, and then in another 12 months we go...we jump up to age 25, and that's...I think that's pretty huge. If this were a bill I could amend, I would put up an amendment to change the 25 to 21, something like that, to have some discussion to stairstep it up a little bit, ramp it up, rather than such a huge difference. And there may be statistics that say that that's what should be done, I don't know that, but I'm not going to support the package at this time. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Erdman, followed by Senator Jones.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, let me give you a little clue on why this is offered on this day as opposed to maybe a Select File amendment. LB 305 has been on Final Reading since February 18, so it's been there for two months. There's other issues with the underlying bill. I don't discount the discussion. I don't discount the decision that we're making. I will say this; the implementation is a year and a half out for the 25 age group. Now I've talked with Senator Bromm and I'm willing to do some things here for the process if necessary, but let me...let's get to the issue at hand. I'll walk you through the sheet. Changes made to the State Boat Act: number one, boat registration fees. Right now, there's no specific statutory authority for those fees to be used for education. We offer education. I think that's a vital change. Number two, registering motorboats and personal