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FLOOR DEBATE

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watercraft in any county of the state of Nebraska. You don't know how frustrating it is for citizens in Keith County, for individuals that come to Keith County to McConaughy or other places where they leave their boats at those locations, forgot to register them. They might be from Hastings, so now they've driven all the way to Ogallala to drop their boat in the water; realize, wait, we forgot to register the boat. They've driven out there for no reason. And the only reason why they shouldn't be allowed to do that is because the law prohibits them from being able to register that boat in Keith County for the purposes of using it. So I think that's a vital change. I think that's necessary. Number three, wake jumping. We have individuals killed every year because somebody is following behind someone being towed and jumps the wake or hits them because they're not observing the reality that there's a greater risk there, so I think number three is important. I'm going off of the amendment sheet that I handed you. The number four seems to be the sticking point for a lot of people. Again, the implementation date is delayed. It is delayed. This is not unusual. This is not something that hasn't been done before. We're looking forward and we're going to say, we had a public hearing. At the public hearing, we were going to require 85-year-old people to have a boat safety course, and the only people that came in, in opposition, was a gentleman that was outraged that what we were taking out of the bill was a requirement that you had to have insurance. He wasn't opposed to what's before you. The gentleman was opposed to the fact that in the existing law you are supposed to have insurance. In this amendment you don't, because there's a potential for us to lose federal funds in violation of federal law, so that's out of the bill. The age restriction issue is a loophole. We know that. During the debate, when Senator Hilgert's bill came up and, again, that was years ago. We're not bound by past Legislatures. Let's look at what the guidance was, and the guidance was to do what's in this, and that is close the loophole. I can ride a jet ski at 55 miles an hour. I'm the only one putting myself at risk and potentially somebody else that's around me. But I can give that same person the opportunity to drive a boat at 10, at 6, at whatever age. Is that right? We don't let individuals...we won't even let a kid drive his car until he's the age of 18 with our graduated