

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

May 16, 2003

LB 303

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, or Mr. President and members of the body. Senator Jensen referred to the 17 amendments that are attached here and possibly more, and that's because there are...these aren't amendments where we are changing a number or kind of some of the typical ways that a filibuster of this nature would go. These are serious amendments, and the one that I support of Senator Byars is only one of them. Other things that are going to be coming up are eliminating the subsidy of the motorcycle safety classes, requiring everyone to take the safety class; cleaning up rules and regulations language. One amendment provides for an annual fee for those providing the course, and this is what is done in other diversion requirements for courses...in the diversion class requirement courses that are run by the Department of Motor Vehicles and this would just put that at the same method. Another would allow DMV more latitude to suspend or refuse a safety class or an instructor permit. And also there is an amendment that would set a sunset, so that we can measure the effectiveness of the law and act accordingly. And there is also an amendment coming up on eyewear specifications. This is...there are lots of things that need to be improved in this bill, so I think it's good we are taking time to work through some of these amendments, but I also think that, fundamentally, the issue is not going to change over what the impact is of not wearing helmets. And the study I am going to cite now was done for the Department of Transportation. Their division is called the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which other senators have been referencing, and I do think the NHTSA, which is the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation motto or logo is very telling; People Saving People. And this is the group that recommends to states based on data collected from studies, many of them financed by the same group, that support the fact that helmet laws are important for a lot of reasons, public safety and health reasons, as well as the costs reasons. This particular study that was commissioned was you have a literature review of