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January 14, 2004 LB 227

SENATOR BYARS: And what's your reason for bringing that bill?

SENATOR BAKER: For...I didn't...it's not my bill; it's Senator Thompson's bill.

SENATOR BYARS: Oh. Okay, thank you, Senator. I thought it was. I thought you had a bill that restricted those numbers.

SENATOR BAKER: No. I think that's what you're referring to. It's Senator Thompson's bill. And I think she has a similar bill in the committee this year also, with some additional changes to it, I believe. I haven't read the bill, but you might want to ask Senator Thompson.

SENATOR BYARS: Okay. Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Thompson, will you yield?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson, will you yield to a question, please?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR BYARS: Could you tell us the reason why you feel that this legislation is good, and how it might tie in to how we're treating youngsters as responsible but as safely as we can?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes. A few years ago, research was conducted by Johns Hopkins University, and it found that the major cause of death and death to passengers of teenage drivers was distractions. Subsequent to that study, the National Transportation Safety Board has recommended to states--and a number of them have already enacted it--limiting the number of passengers riding with a provisional driver. And the reason for that is, the research shows--and now we have research from the other states--that if you do that, significant number of injuries and deaths occurs, because...a reduction in that number, because of the distraction issue. And it's a safety issue for the provisional drivers till they get their feet on the ground and get a little more experience driving. And so the bill has been introduced in the Legislature a couple of times.