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FLOOR DEBATE

January 14, 2004 LB 353

opposed nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: The committee amendments are adopted. Next item on the bill, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Synowiecki would move to amend with FA1409. (Legislative Journal page 272.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Synowiecki, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I didn't quite plan to get this involved with this bill. I...Senator Vrtiska, in his opening, he mentioned some problems with a constituent in terms of a rather minor violation with the learning permit law, or the school permit, and what happened was a rather hefty sanction with the revocation to the Department of Motor Vehicles. And I'm sympathetic to that. I think that that would be an excessive punishment, along with the excessive collateral issues involved with insurance rates for these young people. The committee then offered a change in terminology, if you will, from revocation, in offering the option of an impoundment. But nevertheless, when it comes to at least the insurance rate part of this equation, I think you're still at the same area of possible, potential ramifications in this...to the extent of rates will still go up once your license is removed by any official body, whether that be the courts or by the Department of Motor Vehicles. My amendment simply replaces the "shall" with the "may"; gives the courts a wide variety of options. It could range anywhere from...as Senator Baker mentioned, it often results in a \$50 fine. The court in more serious cases could then revoke the license, and have it go through all the procedures with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Or now, with the adoption of the committee amendment, they can impound it. So it gives them a wide variety. They can fit, if you will, the punishment with the degree of the violation. And I just...I think this would be a good way to go on this measure, and would appreciate your support. Thank you.