

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

February 12, 2004 LB 227

you well recall that this is Senator Aguilar's bill making it unlawful for the operator of a vehicle to allow any person under the age of 18 to ride in or on any portion of a vehicle that wasn't designed for that purpose. And you may recall that we've had a couple of pretty good discussions on this and, subsequent to the last discussion, Speaker Bromm called together parties who were interested in attending to see if we could come up with one version of things that we could recommend to you, and I'm going to talk about this amendment as that version that came the very closest to what everybody wanted to recommend. And I will invite Senator Aguilar and Senator Chambers and others to comment on it then at that point in time. But let me take you through this amendment and point out the key elements of it so that you can rattle around in your mind these different ideas and see if we have, in fact, come up with something that's acceptable to you. I also need to preface these remarks by indicating to you that in the end what everybody wanted to do was to preserve as much as possible Senator Aguilar's bill in the way that he wanted it, but at the same time to integrate this piece with the general child restraint law that we have, because they're really part and parcel of the same thing. The idea of not being in restraints is really one idea and should be dealt with in one piece of legislation. And so this amendment takes the bill in and fits it into the child restraint law, and in doing that, we attempted to do it in such a way that we kept intact everything that Senator Aguilar wanted and changed as little as possible of the current child restraint law. And where, in the one or two small instances, where we were not able to integrate those ideas completely without some conflict, I will point out those two situations to you so you can think about those situations too. But here's what the amendment does. Senator Aguilar, in his bill, applied this prohibition to riding in the truck bed to children who were less than 18 years of age--17 and under. We integrated this with the child restraint law and here is one of the differences, one of the things we needed to change in the current child restraint law. It applied to children who were 16, under 16, so we're including a couple of years, age 16 and 17, under the child restraint law. That's one...that's probably the biggest change in the child restraint law right there. Then...the prohibition then would apply, as Senator Aguilar intended in his bill, to all children less than