

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

February 12, 2004 LB 227

for that to be done. And the definition of "motor vehicle," which is the definition we use for purposes of this law, says that the vehicle...says, for one thing, the vehicle has to be self-propelled. So if you're in a farm field, you could use a farm wagon, you could use a hayrack, a hayrack I guess you call it, and I suppose there are some other types of nonself-propelled conveyances that you could use within the field situation. So that, at least, Senator Stuhr, is what I know from the definitions that I can find so far. I appreciate Senator Landis' representation of his particular point of view, and we are all, I think, cognizant of a nostalgia that goes with the way we have done things forever and the way things have been done in the past. And I suppose if you really thought about it, there are probably be a hundred things you could think of, like having that little kid sitting right in front of you as you're driving the car and he or she is pretending to be driving the car too. Ever done that? That was done with me when I was a boy and I think of that very nostalgically as a very loving time with my father, but as I look to the future and look to the way things should be, I know that the fathers in the future will find other ways to build those bonds, and they will take their kids fishing, too, and there will be moments that will be remembered just the same and just as vividly, but we'll all be safer. And more than it just being my decision about my child, I will know that if the guy down the street, who I like a lot, takes his kid and my kid fishing, that he's going to do it in a way that's safe. I can count on that and I think I should be able to count on that. I think that's a good thing, and that's not just the parent-child bond. No one is an island anymore. We're all doing things together and we need to count on how other people are going to do things. And in the law, we look both at the probability of a harm and at the degree of harm, and those two things are what we weigh. And with kids riding in a pickup, the probability of harm perhaps is not that great, but the degree of harm that can be done if a child is thrown out of a pickup is great, obviously. And so we give greater weight in the law to those things that prohibit accidents that are life threatening, perhaps life taking. And that's why, because this is such a dangerous situation, I think on balance...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.