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FLOOR DEBATE

January 31, 2005 LB 21

passed, LB 305, a couple of years ago. And before I get too far, there was a number of individuals that were a part of that original effort--Senator Foley and Senator Jensen and Senator Stuhr. And we never had an opportunity, at the time when the bill passed, to thank them. And so I wanted to publicly thank them. LB 21 would remove a provision in the leased part of the boat safety act, which would allow for the operation by leased vehicles for individuals between the ages of 14 and 18. The way that the law is currently written, an individual could borrow a jet ski from a neighbor. Maybe their parents even own one. They would be allowed to operate that watercraft if they would pass the boater safety course that's authorized in Section 37-1241.06. Under the law as it stands now, in that same scenario, if you leased a vehicle--say it's at Lake McConaughy or one of the facilities throughout the state that leases personal watercraft--the state prohibits that in the current law. LB 21 is simply designed to bring the leased...the livery portion of the state watercraft law into line with the ownership portion. There is a committee amendment, which adds the emergency clause. It's our intent, after having many discussions and meetings with individuals across the state on this issue, to have this go into effect before the rental season for this next year. And I would encourage your support of both the bill and the committee amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the committee amendments are simple. It adds the emergency clause. If Senator Erdman's bill passes, it would not be effective for this summer. And I think that would be his intention. So it would be practical to use it for this summer. So that's what it does. Without the emergency clause, I don't believe the bill would become enacted until October of this fall.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments offered by the Natural Resources Committee. Open for discussion on that motion. There are no lights on, Senator Schrock. Did you wish to...he waives closing. The question before the body is, shall the committee