

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

February 24, 2005 LB 76

their family, and they do an improper lane change, and that's defined in another section of statute, and it simply...it's pretty broad. It just simply says, changing from one lane to another without first ascertaining that such a movement can be made with safety. So I would assume they, you know, merged back into the other lane too quickly, and didn't leave enough space. So say they're pulled over by the police officer for that. And then...that's seems fairly innocuous, if they're in their personal vehicle. And then say...well, I can kind of see to a certain extent, then, if they're 15 miles an hour over...I guess, Senator Baker, and again, I just started reading the bill. I guess what I'm concerned about is that you have a...even though these are defined as serious traffic violations, to me, an improper lane change is fairly innocuous, and I'm even guilty of this occasionally. I travel, or maybe my wife would say, follow a little too closely upon occasion. But again, those are subjective things by the...that the police would view. And I guess what I'm concerned about is that these individuals would lose their livelihood, their ability to drive a truck. And I assume most truck drivers, if you're not driving, you're not getting paid. I'm kind of concerned that maybe this is too broad, and that if they were actually just driving their commercial vehicle, I think that would be a little more appropriate to deny them their ability to drive that commercial truck, if they're violating the laws in this regard.

SENATOR BAKER: Senator Bourne, I understand your concern. My concern is...and I have employees with commercial driver's licenses pulling semis loaded with grain, so on. I wouldn't...we hold those people to a higher standard, those people with commercial driver's licenses. And if they can't demonstrate to me that they can behave and adhere to the laws of the state of Nebraska in their personal vehicle, I want to know that, and I don't want them driving my vehicles, quite honestly, for liability reasons. If they have two serious violations in this period of time, I do not want them driving a commercial vehicle for me. And I wouldn't want them on the state highways, to be honest with you.

SENATOR BOURNE: So again, even if they make a mistake in their personal vehicle, which, you know, you can kind of say that if