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FLOOR DEBATE

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or at least the vast majority of the body. We've heard various motorcycle helmet bills ever since I've been in the Legislature in the committee, I think every year. And this is a compromise. It says we are willing to require a strict education program in order to go without helmets in exchange for those few people...and Senator Beutler brought this up, I really doubt there's going to be "anywheres" near...I'm just sure there's not going to be a majority of motorcycle riders in this state go without helmets, even if they're permitted to go without them. They just won't do it. There is that element of freedom, though, involved, and the issue that Senator Smith has made that we do have people, and I'm on a border area out there with the Colorado Highway 385 not far from us; bikers will stay out of the state of Nebraska, and I believe him. I have a doctor friend and a lawyer friend, both from Topeka, who avoid Nebraska. They go around Nebraska to get to Sturgis. They go east going up and they go west coming back. And I have no reason to not believe what they're telling me, and they're professional people. That's one instance I know of personally. I honestly think that what we have faced here is whether we want to make a decision to adopt a stringent education requirement to get a Class M motorcycle license in exchange for allowing a few people who would ride without a helmet in exchange. I pointed out, as Senator Beutler reiterated, I have a brother-in-law who took the course, lives in Colorado, does not go without a helmet. Neither does my sister who rides with him occasionally. I don't think that you'd see a majority...I'm sure you wouldn't see a majority of people go without a helmet just because they could. I think we also have to recognize that the helmet law we have in place in Nebraska now, I honestly challenge anyone on the floor to say I can tell you a friend who was ticketed for having an illegal or a noncompliant helmet on. Somebody else brought that up. I don't remember which senator. A lot of these little beanie-type things that they claim are helmets, although they aren't; that question was brought up in the committee. They have to be approved by the National Safety Transportation Board (sic) or some such matter, should have that stamp on them. I've never known of anyone be ticketed with that, so enforcement of the current law, I think, is rather sketchy at best, and it's not a priority, obviously. But I think where we are, we're going to have to make a decision here