

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

April 19, 2005      LB 70

can't do that, unless you do this, unless you do that, because in fact government is smarter than you, and we can make the decisions and tell you what to do. That's not what the bill does. The bill says that there are some choices to be made. There's a trade-off. I think it's a reasonable one. One of the things that is in Section 7 is actually another mandate--and I find that instructive, considering the discussion--and that is about eyewear. And if you adopt Senator Jensen's amendment, you will actually strike the requirement that says you have to be wearing the eyewear. And I'm going to give the remainder of my time to Senator Smith, because I can feel his comment...or, hear his comments in the back. And perhaps he can instruct me better on why eyewear should be worn and how that might help the safety of riders.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Redfield. And I want to point out that, currently, a helmet is mandated; not a full-face helmet, not a helmet that accommodates eye protection--a helmet, I think DOT approved, perhaps; those that are tested to a speed of...an impact speed of 14 miles per hour, less than 14 miles per hour. So very conceivably, we have a situation of an object coming into the eye of the motorcyclist and veering off into the other lane of traffic. But, hey, as long as they have a helmet on we're saving on insurance and taxes. Haven't quite seen the evidence of that and, hopefully, Senator Jensen can bring us more evidence of the savings over time, and where insurance companies have guaranteed this savings, and Health and Human Services perhaps hasn't asked for as much money, because of our helmet law. But when we look at the big picture, our current policy is lacking. And Senator Jensen wants to create more mandates, but not in exchange for anything reasonable. And I seek to offer the give and take along the way of the balanced approach, of restoring some freedom, or removing a restriction, as Senator Jensen may prefer to call it, and also saying, you know, you better have experience, have education, wear eyewear, be 21 years of age. We're talking about mandating responsibility here; obviously, we are. But I heard earlier where Senator Johnson talked about some statistics...