

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

April 21, 2005 LB 70

even, not necessarily even the exact wording, but the concepts contained in AM1286, we're lacking the comprehensive approach of bringing the safety mechanism, the eyewear. Right now, there is no eyewear required. The hard shell around your head is all that is required. And talking to enthusiasts and so forth, they really feel that eyewear is actually...is actually more effective, and so I think we need to include that. I think we need to include the concepts that I have proposed in LB 70, the green copy, and amended by my amendment on this first round that's already been adopted, so that we can have the comprehensive approach. I think I have...the work that I've done and those who have helped me, we've moved forward in good faith and this training mechanism is not just a distraction from the relaxation of the helmet law. And I don't speak for myself only. I speak for a lot of enthusiasts and others who really look to the safety training as an effective tool. And, as I said before, we have folks waiting in line to take that training and I believe that we should do what we can to accommodate them. The makeup of the task force...and I'm not opposed to a task force forming to look at the numbers. I am concerned if it's just a delaying tactic, but I think that we could improve the makeup of that task force a great deal so that it would be more balanced, and I offer those advocates from both sides of the issue and make sure that if they aren't advocates from both sides of the issue and they offer an objective viewpoint (laugh), I would like to almost go through a jury selection process to make sure that these folks are not activists cloaked behind a diploma of some sort because that's what I've been finding oftentimes, is that they say they're unbiased, but they truly do have a bias. And some of the numbers that have been tossed around...and I agree with Senator Johnson that we want to take an accurate look at statistics and we need to look at that big picture. And a lot of these, even on the Health and Human Services web site, the numbers that are given there indicate a bias right up-front because they withhold some very important information, that being the registration numbers that dipped throughout the late eighties, before the helmet law came on the books; continued to decline after the helmet law came on the books; leveled out and it's on its way back up. But it still has not achieved the same point, same as that point in 1982. So there are a lot of things that we need to look at. Again, I...