

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

April 25, 2005 LB 70

never been in the constitution.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: And this, to me, is a privilege. If you want to go through the course, have eye protection, be over 21, then you have the privilege of making that judgment whether you want to ride with a helmet or not. I think those people that I've talked to, have taken the course, understand the benefits of using a helmet. Most of them are going to ride with a helmet after they've taken the course. But in order to get this death rate down from whatever it is, it's high, get this down, we need to include in a motorcycle permitting process to include the training course. Just, to me, it's a no-brainer. Here's what we're short in our law. Now we don't have this in here, but in order to get it in here we're going to have to do some compromising, and that compromise is going to be allow people the freedom of making the choice whether they want to ride with a helmet or not. I speak from my own practical experience without ever taking the course. I'm not going to ride without a helmet.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Byars, followed by Senators Thompson and Johnson. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thanks, Senator Cudaback. I think we're kind of back where we were in the beginning. Senator Baker is talking about education. I just couldn't agree with him more, and that has been a constant theme of his remarks on this floor. In addition to education, he thinks compromise includes making us less safe by taking away the helmets. This is where we disagree. I can easily, easily go with him and trust him, and believe he's absolutely correct--more education is going to save lives. More education is going to help motorcycle riders to understand that, yes, that helmet serves a purpose and it saves lives, saves traumatic brain injuries. It was interesting, and certainly not a scientific poll, but I think almost everybody in