

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

April 26, 2005      LB 70A

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the people who don't want to wear a helmet are not going to take that safety program, in my opinion. They feel they know how to drive well enough to navigate the streets and highways of Nebraska without the need for a helmet, because it is not their intent, nor do they anticipate an accident occurring. So what this bill does, in effect, is to take away the requirement that a person wear a motorcycle helmet. That statement is not completely accurate. The requirement to wear a helmet is still there. If the law said that you must wear a helmet, the law is clear. Whether you like it or not, it's clear. When the law says that you must wear a helmet, but really you don't have to, then it becomes murky. If a person wears glasses...and the reason I keep talking about glasses, because "glasses" is a word that is found in the bill. I'm not making that up. Glasses. See these that I'm putting on? I'm safe from being stopped by the police if I'm on a motorcycle without a helmet. But here's a question I do have to ask Senator Smith. Senator Smith, would you yield to another question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, would you respond?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Smith, if a person has glasses, of whatever variety, or a windshield...I want to get past that, for my purposes, the windshield and all these other things. Let's...I want to stick to the glasses. If a person has glasses and no helmet, and is stopped for speeding, that person, even though he or she has glasses, can be ticketed for not having a helmet.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Isn't that true?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. But the person should understand that the glasses requirement is distinct and separate from the helmet