

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 70

the amendment at this time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen. Mr. Clerk, first.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Jensen would move to amend his amendment with AM1613. (Legislative Journal page 1667.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen, to open on your amendment, AM1613, to AM1153.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This amendment is fairly extensive. It's on your gadgets in front of you, and I'd appreciate it if you would happen to take a look at that. But before doing that, I would just like to say a few things about LB 70. And LB 70, as it is before you now with the E & R amendments, is an embarrassment, and it is a sham. And that's not me just saying that. That is a number of editorials that have been written since LB 70 was passed on General File. I think it was unfortunate that it did come out in the way it did. And this is a method to take a look at that issue and to address it, and hopefully come up with an amendment that...and a bill, that many can adhere to. First of all, what LB 70 says today is that wearing a helmet is a secondary offense. Wearing eye protection is a primary offense. Twenty-one and under riders must wear a helmet. Those over, if they take a training, will not have to wear a helmet. And that is very, very confusing. It's confusing to those in law enforcement. It's even confusing to those who ride motorcycles. On top of that, even to the thought of repealing the present motorcycle law, I don't know that there's been a single editorial that has introduced...or, that has endorsed the repeal of the motorcycle law...the motorcycle helmet law. Every medical agency in the state of Nebraska has come out in opposition to this repeal. Several insurance companies have come out in opposition to this repeal. Two polls done last year, one by AAA, and another one by a research institution, show that 80 percent, 80 percent of Nebraskans favor the motorcycle helmet law that we have today, because it has worked, and it has saved lives. So what does this amendment do? I'd go...I'd like to go through it section by section, so that you can see what our idea is on this bill, and also the fact that