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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 70

with that. I'm going to vote no on LB 70, and vote no on Senator Jensen's amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I supported LB 70 when Senator Smith introduced. I thought that it had some practical applications. One of the things it said was, if you want to take off your helmet, you're going to have to take a training course. So I thought that there was going to be a carrot in order to encourage people to go out and get some training. One of the concerns I had when the amendment was adopted on LB 70 earlier is that in fact the carrot went away, that there was no reward for taking the safety training course, because in fact we were still going to require, by law, everyone to wear a helmet. I've heard from constituents in my district; they want to take the helmets off. I've heard from others who say, you know, even if the law changes, I'm going to wear my helmet because I think it's a good idea. But I'm an adult, I'm an American, I ought to be able to choose. So I thought Senator Smith had found a good compromise in giving that carrot. Senator Smith...or, Senator Jensen is trying to run a trial run. I don't think that's a bad way to go. I think that I can support a study. I can support a trial run. Whether one year is enough, I'd be open to looking whether that should be longer. But one of the things that I think is necessary if we're going to do a trial run is that it should be a trial run that looks like Senator Smith's original bill, which says, if you want to take the helmet off, you're going to have to take a training course. Otherwise, we're going to be comparing statistics of people without training, riding without a helmet, and seeing if in fact the accident rate decreases. I don't think that's a fair comparison. So I'm hoping that whatever agreement is worked out will return us back to the elements that Senator Smith had offered us in the original LB 70 during the study period, saying you can't take the helmet off unless you take the training. And then, whatever time frame the Legislature wants to agree to, I'm fine with that. It can be longer than a year, and I'll support that. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Baker,