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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 70

he had...his head had come crashing off to the side of the pavement, God knows how bad I would have felt, whatever. But it would be small...some small comfort to me to know that those people who I might hit are wearing a helmet and may be less injured than otherwise. Thank you.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Very briefly, I want to point out to the body, state of Pennsylvania has been doing this for over a year. Deaths have decreased. Do we need more than a year to determine the actual impact? Yes. But Pennsylvania is doing it, and it's working well so far. And I commend them for having the courage to do this similar concept with training and otherwise. But please keep an open mind, colleagues. Please keep an open mind. This is a workable scenario that has five years of forethought. There were differing ways that we tried to approach this. And it is a way to accommodate some freedoms and some public safety issues. And keep in mind that Health and Human Services does not even track the expenses to the state as a result of motorcycle accidents. Now, they did extrapolate some information for me. And I expected...and I've given it in handouts. I expected the costs to the state to be even higher than what HHS told me they were. Please keep that in mind. Please keep that in mind that insurance companies have the opportunity to rate up motorcyclists based on their habits. And they generally don't. I think some health insurance companies might. But that's generally not a practice, where they choose to rate up smokers, other risk-oriented activities relating to public health. We can accommodate some personal freedom here, we can accommodate the enhanced training mechanism in LB 70, and we can get this done. I have filed the cloture motion. I hope you'll vote "no" to recommit to committee, and vote "yes" from that point forward. We have the opportunity to help build our economy. We need to welcome tourists into our state, and this is one way of doing exactly that. I hope you'll join me in advocating for this concept, and we can make a large number of Nebraskans happy and invite a large number of non-Nebraskans to spend millions of dollars in Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. President.