

so that that is required only for first offense sentences, not second and third offense sentences, DWI.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Okay, I just wanted to clarify whether it...because I don't really want to talk to the amendments, just to the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Back to the bill. Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: (Microphone not activated)...discuss what this bill, LB 631 is about. I think we all understand how terrifically beneficial for all Nebraskans the drunk driving bills have been that Senator Nichol and Senator Haberman and others of us worked on in the past as LB 568 in 1982. To date we have save hundreds of lives in Nebraska, well over 250 lives, statistically, and there is a handout I gave you earlier this morning that shows the number of lives saved by comparison to earlier years. We, of course, don't know who those people are. No one knows who the lives are that have been saved so they are not here to thank us for it, but, statistically, it is clear that we have not only saved hundreds of lives but we have saved thousands and thousands of dollars in property damage and untold suffering and personal injury as a result of having these effective drunk driving laws. Now, this particular bill has four principal items, one of which tempers the law and the other three of which strengthen the law. Now, in the last four years we have learned some lessons about how to make the drunk driving laws operate better and 631, like 626 this morning, is intended to smooth off some of the rough edges based on our experience. Now let me just briefly describe what those four things are. The first is strengthening the act, and I think we need to strengthen the act by increasing the maximum for first offense that a judge may sentence from 7 days to 30 days. Now the purpose of that is so the judges will have more succes in directing people into treatment programs. County judges in Omaha and county judges in Lincoln, a county judge in Scottsbluff, in Senator Nichol's