

area, other county judges have reported to us that we have some individuals with serious alcoholism problems that would rather take their 7 days than enter into a program. The judges are saying to us, give us a maximum of 30 days so we will have a larger hammer to direct these people into treatment programs. So that is the first strengthening thing the bill does. The second strengthening thing the bill does is it sets out a different set of criminal penalties for those who will injure someone while drunk driving, as distinguished from mere drunk driving. Under the current law, you can be charged with a homicide offense, motor vehicular homicide, if you kill somebody while drunk. Anything short of that is simple drunk driving. In other words, if you seriously injure someone in an auto accident so they lose a leg or lose an arm, the penalty is no different than if you are simply weaving down the road. So this would fill that space in the criminal law that other jurisdictions, most other jurisdictions, have taken care of. Now, the third thing the bill does is it tempers the act, it tempers the act by reducing the maximum allowable license suspension for third offense drunk drivers from lifetime to 10 years. Now this is an important feature. When we passed the bill four years ago there was a floor amendment that gave judges discretion to take away a license for a lifetime in a third offense drunk driving situation and I think just about everyone will agree that that is a little excessive. I mean, lifetime, after all, is a long time for anyone. Whoever is involved, whoever they are, the rest of their life is a long, long time. What it serves to do is drive people out of the state. If you are 30 or 40 or 45 and if you are in a mobile profession and if your license is taken away for the rest of your life in the State of Nebraska, you are just going to move. You are just going to move. You are going to move to Arizona or California or Oregon because that is really not something that most people are willing to deal with. So we bring that down to 10 years. Now 10 years is still a long time. If a third offense drunk driver is 25 years old and gets involved in an accident and the judge takes his license away for the maximum 10-year period, by the time he is 35, presumably he has rehabilitated himself, put his problems behind him and so forth. I think most everyone will agree that 10 years is sufficient. Now, the fourth thing it does is it prevents someone whose license has been suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction from obtaining a license in Nebraska. We have a problem because people whose licenses are suspended in Iowa for drunk