

the first provision does. Now the second provision brings down the maximum lifetime suspension that a judge can impose on a third offense drunk driver from lifetime down to 10 years, and I think a lot of us view the lifetime license suspension as being too harsh, because after all no matter how old someone is, lifetime is a long time, the rest of your life is a long time, and we think that 10 years is an adequate maximum sentence for license suspension for third offenders. A lifetime suspension of someone in his thirties, forties, or fifties is merely going to serve to push them out of the state, to make them move someplace else where they can get licensed to drive. The third significant provision in LB 631 creates an offense of causing serious bodily injury while drunk driving, and this fills a gap in current law between motor vehicular homicide which carries a year in prison, if you kill somebody because you are drunk, and simple drunk driving, simply weaving down the road. Right now the penalty is the same for simply weaving down the road, intoxicated while driving, as it is if you cause an accident in which somebody else suffers serious bodily injury. This provision fills that gap by making it a Class III misdemeanor if you are drunk and seriously injure somebody else. The fourth provision in this bill plugs an important loophole by preventing anyone whose license has been suspended for DWI in another state from coming into Nebraska and being licensed here, and we are seeing some of that. We are seeing people in Iowa who lose their licenses for drunk driving coming over into Nebraska and having a license issued here, and then going back and driving on that Nebraska license in Iowa. This would plug that particular loophole in the drunk driving laws. So, basically, what we have tried to do in LB 631 is to instill the best ideas that have been brought to us in recent years as to how we can improve the 1981 legislation, to strengthen it in some areas, to moderate it in other areas, and that is what the bill does, basically those four things. I would be pleased to attempt to answer questions anyone might have. I would ask the bill be advanced. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman. Senator Higgins is next.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Mr. President, members of the body, when we passed the original bill, I was the introducer and Senator Hoagland requested could he co-introduce it with me, and I said yes. And although this weakens the original