

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 5, 1999

LB 176, 267  
LR 97, 98, 99

the Agriculture Committee, signed by Senator Dierks, as Chair. Judiciary Committee, notice of confirmation hearing. Senator Landis, an amendment to LB 267 to be printed. And a series of study resolutions: LR 97 by Senator Chambers, LR 98 by Senator Thompson, LR 99 by Senator Chambers and Bromm. Mr. President, there will be a meeting of the Retirement Committee at 11:30 in Room 2022; Retirement Committee, 2022 at 11:30. That's all that I had, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1854-1859.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. LB 176.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 176, a bill originally introduced by Senator Hilgert. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 8, referred to the Natural Resources Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0756, Legislative Journal page 1030.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Hilgert, to open on LB 176.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President, fellow colleagues. I am going to open up with LB 176 with the story of why I bring this bill to you for your consideration. This is from Cory Pelnar, a constituent and friend of mine: "As you may recall from hearing about it in the press, my best friend, Heather McCurry, was killed while using her jet ski two and a half years ago. Heather had just purchased her jet ski and had used it less than three times. She and another passenger, who was also hurt, were jumping the wake off of a friend's boat that was ahead of them. Heather, being the passenger on her own jet ski, was thrown off into the propeller of the boat. Heather's leg was severed. She went into shock and bled to death before they could get her back to shore. She had suffered many, many deep wounds all over her back and buttock area. You can imagine the grief that I felt. Can you also imagine for a moment how Heather's mother, Sharon Blanchard, felt when a carload of Heather's friends went...who went boating that day, pulled into Sharon's driveway to tell her that her daughter was killed by a jet ski. After this accident, I really began noticing the jet skis on the Missouri River. As some of you know, it is just maddening. I keep wondering to myself why is there not training or education classes for jet skiers? Why does not...what does not make sense is the fact that there are driver's education