

March 16, 1979

LB 23

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler is going to handle the committee amendments. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, first of all if I could get you to turn to page 13 of the bill. I just wanted to read very quickly what a moped is so we all know what we are talking about here. A moped shall mean, and I am reading from page 13, section 52, moped shall mean a bicycle with fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power, an automatic transmission and a motor with a cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty cubic centimeters which produces no more than two-horsepower and is capable of propelling the bicycle at a maximum designed speed of no more than thirty miles per hour on level ground. I think the important facts to remember are that this is a vehicle that is a light vehicle. It has a designed speed of no more than thirty miles an hour. It does have pedals, but from the testimony I would suggest that you have to dislike yourself an awful lot to use the pedals for very long. Mostly it will be driven by power. There is a booklet that describes them in further detail. I think Senator Merz passed that around to you. It looks like this in case you are trying to identify it. It has a great deal of technical information on the mopeds. When this bill first came to the committee it really treated mopeds almost exactly like bicycles and the question that was raised in the committee by many members was whether or not it was wise to treat them more like motorcycles in certain respect in the interest of safety. We had many discussions in the committee over whether we needed more regulation in the interest of safety and of course we also all felt that the less regulation the better in the interest of freedom and economy and in the interest of getting people to get into mopeds and use them because they are a very fuel efficient mode of transportation and so that is the balancing act we were trying to do and the committee was appointed and we came back with some amendments that were finally acceptable to the entire committee, and were also acceptable to the people who introduced the bill in the first place, I might add, and I believe acceptable to Senator Merz, the introducer of the bill. Let me just point out the basic provisions in the amendments so you will have a concept of how we have handled mopeds. Essentially we treat them like motorcycles to the extent that we require an operator's license. You have to be sixteen to get an operator's license just as with motorcycles. You can get a learner's permit at