

fifteen or a school permit at fourteen. They are treated like motorcycles and motor vehicles in that respect. Additionally they are treated like motorcycles in the sense that they are required to drive in the stream of traffic. The safety people who testified indicated that they would prefer that they were required to drive in the stream of traffic as opposed to the right hand side of the road for safety reasons and so that change was made. Now, in most other respects they are treated like bicycles. The licensing of the vehicle itself is left to the local government. They are prohibited from limited access highways and interstates. Vehicle inspection is left to the discretion of local government and no vehicle title is required, so that gives you a general perspective of where we place mopeds on the scale between bicycles and motorcycles, and I don't think there was anybody on the committee who was completely happy with the entire set of amendments but on balance it did satisfy the committee as a whole. So I think I will leave with that and leave the rest to questions.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 23. Senator Merz, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR MERZ: Yes. Mr. President, members of the body, I agreed to these amendments. I personally don't think we need them and this to me, is up to your judgment. The main thing here is that, do we let a fourteen year old have them or do we put the permit up to sixteen. I think a fourteen year old is safe on these because there is no more power here than what you got on a ten speed bike but it is up to the body, however they want it. I'm satisfied either way. The main thing I think is we need the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I would like to break in just for a moment and then we will come back to the discussion. Underneath the South balcony it is my pleasure to introduce on St. Patrick's Day or the day before St. Patrick's Day, Mary O'Halloran who is the Regional Representative of the Department of Energy in Kansas City. This covers the states of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Minnesota. She previously served three terms in the Iowa House of Representatives and was chairman of the House Committee on Energy. It was announced earlier that she would be in Room 2102 to discuss energy and allied subjects with legislators starting at one o'clock. Will you please stand and come out so we can see you? We welcome you to Nebraska. Now, Senator Wesely and then Senator Kahle.