

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Now for the bill, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the body, you have on your desk a copy of the summary of the federal regulations that are in this draft of the truck safety bill. I would urge you to review them if you haven't already done so because they are the federal requirements and we are adopting those federal requirements. The safety regulations cover qualifications and hours of service of drivers; safety equipment, such as lights, brakes, repair, maintenance, and driving; also covers the regulations of transportation of hazardous materials, how they are packaged, the containers in which they are placed, and their carriage on the highways. I am sure that these regulations, if enacted by the Legislature, would reduce the possibility of accidents and the severity of those accidents which involve commercial motor vehicles. Currently in Nebraska, and we have only one person, a federal government employee, who is responsible for enforcing the federal laws on truck safety. Congress recognized this deficiency and thereby appropriated some additional money to carry out the enforcement of these regulations. In all honesty, the State of Nebraska will receive just about \$225,000 per year for the next three years to assist us in the enforcement of these regulations. At that time, as has often happened in the past, it will be up to the state to fund those individuals. The bill exempts farm trucks under 32,000 pounds in these regulations, also exempts drivers of farm trucks, and the use of ag chemicals on the farms is exempt from hazardous material regulations. I will be glad to answer any questions that you might have on the bill. I might add also that about 29 of the states have already adopted these regulations.

PRESIDENT: An amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Senator, would you like to take up your amendment at this time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I would, Mr. President.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit would move to amend. Senator, I have in front of me Request 1744. (Schmit amendment appears on pages 291-93 of the Legislative Journal.)