

Committee, we worked as hard as we could to limit that employment driving situation to first offense individuals that have been convicted of drunk driving and only on the job driving, not to and from work driving. Now here is the problem that we are facing in Omaha. As you know, we have had significantly increased law enforcement in Omaha. The last two or three years we have had a unit of six or seven officers that have conducted hundreds and hundreds of drunk driving arrests. Most of those arrests result in a conviction, and it was this Legislature's decision four years ago that a conviction for first offense drunk driving meant an automatic 60-day license suspension. Now some of those individuals, a very few of those individuals have to be able to drive to maintain their employment. They are delivery truck drivers. They are taxicab drivers. They are individuals who simply have to drive to keep their jobs. And we are getting reports from the Probation Office in Omaha that in case after case individuals are losing their jobs because they have lost their license. So we are attempting to deal with that issue in this extremely limited way, to say that if this is your first and only, now I want to stress these limitations, if it is your first and only drunk driving conviction, and if you establish to the judge by clear convincing evidence that you have got to have your license or you are going to lose your job, why then you get an employment driving permit, not to drive to and from work, but only to drive on the job. Now we took one step further in the committee and that is to stiffen the penalty for misusing an employment driving permit by providing for an additional period of license suspension for 90 days if you are caught misusing it. And let me just, in closing, indicate that we found over the years in observing the enforcement of drunk driving laws that it is the threat of license suspension more than the threat of fine, more than the threat of imprisonment that deters people from drunk driving because it is so important for all of us to have our licenses. Until four years ago when we passed the comprehensive drunk driving law, work permits were there for the asking. The Nebraska statutes were written so that if you asked for one you got it whether you had to have it to keep your job or not. This is not that. We are not returning to the way it was before the drunk driving law. We have come in with a very carefully tailored provision to take care of those individuals and those families that would be without their breadwinner if they didn't have the opportunity to show the courts that they had to have their