

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, would you like to close?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I will have one moment of closing. I think when Senator Chambers made his opening remarks on the bill motion he wanted to call our collective attention to the fact that this bill, in effect, could cause the revocation of a person's drivers license for activities which themselves were precipitated by earlier activities they would never have led to a revocation of the drivers license. For example, if I am apprehended for speeding and if I was ultimately to plead guilty to that speeding, that speeding in and of itself would not result in the revocation of my drivers license. Senator Chambers notes that under this particular law, that originating act, i.e., my speeding, if I fail to appear in court at the appropriate time and if I, after notice by the Motor Vehicles that I had 20 working days to clean the matter up, fail to do so, then I could have my drivers license revoked. Now, Senator Chambers would have us believe that the bill in a sense inflicts a harsher penalty for the offense than the offense itself calls for. Well the truth of the matter is the real offense is the failure to take care of the other offense. That's the offense. It is the failure to take care of the other offense. Now, let me remind this body of a time when we decided that we would in a sense condition operation of motor vehicles on a matter that we collectively thought ought to be taken care of. We now say the person may not register a motor vehicle in the state until that person proves that he or she has liability insurance for that motor vehicle. So we, in effect, have conditioned the operation or the registration of a motor vehicle upon proof of financial responsibility. I don't think that that particular activity on our part is qualitatively different from this where we are simply saying that a person's right, so to speak, to continue driving is conditioned upon that person's appearing in court after notice and answering to the charge that was originally filed against him. This is not a pernicious bill. It is not an evil bill. Again, it represents sound public policy. I encourage you to vote for its advancement.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Vard.