

offenders, the penalty is 7 days in jail and a one year loss of license, and let me emphasize again, these are mandatory provisions and they are applicable to everyone. Now partially as a result of this legislation and other administrative efforts by the Thone and Kerrey administrations and other activities throughout the state, we have seen a terrific and significant statistical reduction in alcohol related accidents, in alcohol related fatalities. Let me just give you some of these statistics. In 1981, 189 people were killed in alcohol related fatalities on the highways in the State of Nebraska. In 1982, the first year the act was in effect, and the first year that there was a lot of attention given to our efforts down here in Lincoln, there were 102 fatalities, a reduction of 89, of 87, I am sorry. In 1983, there were 109 fatalities, a reduction of 80 over the 1981 figures. In 1984, there were 112 fatalities, a reduction of 77 over the 1981 figures. And in 1985, we had the best year ever. In 1985, there were only 91 alcohol related fatalities in Nebraska, fewer than half the number, the 189 in 1981 before the law went into effect. So up to January 1 of this year we have saved 342 lives in Nebraska because of all of these efforts combined using 1981 as a base figure. Now LB 631 is the first opportunity that we have had to look at ways in which that 1981 legislation could be improved. There have been bills previously introduced in the Judiciary Committee. This bill, LB 631 is a result of several years of efforts by Senator Nichol, and Senator Haberman, and others of us that have been interested in this effort for many, many years. And LB 631 does four things and each of those things is important. Each of them is described briefly in the memorandum that has been handed out. Three of those things toughen the bill in some respects and one of them softens the bill. Now what the first provision does of LB 631 is it gives the sentencing judge the discretion to assess a maximum of 30 days instead of 7 days for first offenders, and this provision comes to us from the county judges in Lincoln, in Omaha, Scottsbluff, elsewhere in the state, that have told us that they would like to have a 30 day maximum instead of a 7 day maximum, so that when people come before them with true legitimate drinking problems, they have a hammer, they have a way of pushing them into treatment because the experience has been that there have been at least some people around the state that have preferred to take their 7 days in jail rather than undergoing an important rehabilitative treatment program. So that is what