

SENATOR HIGGINS: But in this bill you would say someone who is 15 shouldn't have to.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Somebody who is just learning how to drive shouldn't have to first pass a written exam to take...to get his learners permit.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Members of the body, I, too, agree with Senator Johnson. This is somewhat of a frightening thing to get a learners permit. I agree with Senator Haberman. Those people, in most cases, are all knowledgeable. But to ask those students to pass that drivers license the first time, and I think a lot of those are self-taught, and very conscientiously by their parents and so on. I think this is unfair to ask them right off. I guess my main reason for wanting to speak, though, today is something else that I am observing. It is on this, maybe not germane to the bill, or the same thing though, is we are finding more and more of a problem. A few years ago it was allowed that anyone that did not have a moving violation or points assessed against their drivers license could get a written abstract. I think over about...well all the way from around 50 to 47 percent of the licenses issued are people...I took advantage of it myself, do not study the book and so on. What I am finding, and I know it is discrimination, but we are talking about the students. Let's talk about the other end of the spectrum or age. We cannot discriminate against the elderly. Some of our minds are not as alert at 50 as 80, or vice versa. But this particular case happened in my area and I've had some other cases brought to my attention from other districts. The problem is they are not, if they can pass the eye examination, these elderly people, then do not have to take the drivers test...the case in my area was brought up in front of the training session this year. It was about a 50-50 debate. Do you folks know that if an applicant comes in to get his drivers license, he passes the vision test, he or she, even if they've had accidents that were simply due to, well a blackout or not understanding and so on, so long as there are no points assessed that drivers license examiner has the ability and the authority, and does fill out the examination for them. How they are to