

PRESIDENT: The motion carries and debate is closed. Senator Johnson, you have the floor...excuse me. I'm sorry. Senator Hoagland. You have the floor to close. Yielding to Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as you can tell the vote is about to be taken only 15 minutes after, only 15 minutes after the last vote in effect was had. Senator Hoagland has not spent excessive amounts of time on this issue because all of us are very aware of the preciousness of time in this Legislature. Before I deal with the merits of this question, I would like to deal with what tends to raise the hackles of people about the so called rules violation to have this issue heard by the Nebraska Legislature. In fact, as every member in this body well knows, this Legislature operates under rules, including a rule that deals with the suspension of the rules, because the rule that deals with the suspension of the rules says that with 30 votes the rules themselves can be suspended. We are always guided by rules. We are not manipulative. We are not rule-breakers. We apply the rules in voting to suspend the rules. We simply say that when one votes to suspend the rules one needs 30 votes to get the job done. We operate with super majorities, not just an ordinary majority. Senator Hoagland has brought to this body an important question of social and public policy, and that question is a simple one. Should or should not those people who choose to ride motorcycles wear helmets. Should we require the wearing of helmets by law. Now I don't know how this issue will ultimately shake out, but I know it is an important, social question that needs to be addressed. I do not think this is a social question that simply should be contained in the committee that heard it. I think it should be addressed on the floor, it should be threshed out, and again majority will, whatever that is, prevail. It is for that reason that I personally will vote to put LB 524 on General File, so that you and I have the opportunity, over the next two months, to reflect on the questions it raises, to form our own opinions, and to come an appropriate judgement, whatever that might be. In the absence of this bill on General File, in the absence of this bill on General File you and I do not hear the arguments, you and I do not form our judgements, you and I cannot come to a collective conclusion. All this vote does is puts the bill on General File for further dialogue. I ask your support.