

mechanism for Department of Roads vehicles, saying that you are not supposed to follow them any closer than 100 feet, period. Now Senator Withem has been making the argument that the patrol cannot enforce the reasonable and prudent language. And the impetus for this, I believe, is the fact that there is a lot of over the road semi's out there on the Interstate following another semi very closely. So they are trying to change the law so that those semi's will have to stay back 300 feet from each other. Now my argument is, and my amendment up there says that one vehicle following another vehicle should not follow more closely than 300 feet, regardless of the kind of vehicle out there on the highways. Senator Withem says that a semi following another semi is more dangerous than a little Honda, or a Toyota, or a Chevy, or a Buick, or some other kind of car, or a motorcycle following another semi...following a semi because the other semi behind is bigger and theoretically takes a little longer to stop because it's got more weight. Remember, it's got a little better brakes, too. Nevertheless it's supposed to take longer to stop. Now I ask each of you how many times you've been out on the Interstate and you saw, or on any highway for that matter, and you saw a semi going down the road and some car right on their tailgate, right behind them. A lot of times. This bill wouldn't change that. Now I'm telling you if you are the driver of that semi that is in front if there is another semi behind you, right on your tailgate, you can at least see him, you know he's back there because of the very reason that he is bigger. You can see him in your mirror. You can see the rear end of the truck. But if you are that little car and you are right behind that semi following him down the road for whatever reason, the driver of that truck, if he didn't see you come up behind him, he doesn't even know you are there because he can't see you. But we are still saying the driver of that semi has got to stay back 300 feet, but that driver of that little car can come right up on his tailgate. Or are we saying that the patrol can't define what reasonable and prudent is under the current law, which I think they probably can, but Senator Withem says they can't. If that is the case, and if the patrol can define 300 feet for a truck, they ought to be able to define 300 feet for me and my Chevy then, too. Remember, this change in the law doesn't apply to just those semi's that we're talking about. It also applies to a pickup pulling a horse trailer, any vehicle towing another vehicle, any vehicle towing a trailer. And we are saying that we're