

got repealed a few years ago, somewhat inadvertently, as I understand it. We have adopted amendments to the bill. Senator Vickers had an amendment restricting the following distance of any vehicle with a flashing light as opposed to the current bill stating highway maintenance vehicle. It is a bill that has been advanced by the Association of Public Employees. It is a bill that was proposed by the Department of Roads to protect their employees on the road. The Highway Patrol indicated that they felt it was needed to put a more specific sort of definition of following too close into the statute. With that, I would urge your adoption of the bill...advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I really hate to do this, but I have to oppose this bill. I think it is unenforceable. And I heard Senator Withem say that the Patrol thought that if there were specific provisions, or more specific and precise provisions about what constitutes following too closely, they could then enforce the law. I don't know if you all remember the series of questions and answers that took place between me and Senator Withem the last time, but the crux of all of the questioning was this, the bill allows a person to get closer than 300 feet, which you must, in order to overtake and pass another vehicle. I asked Senator Withem how a determination could be made that a person, within 300 feet of a vehicle, is not within that 300 feet for the purpose of overtaking and passing. And he said he didn't know how that determination could be made. He was very honest. But what we are doing, as a Legislature, is asking the Patrol to enforce a law when those of us who may vote to enact it don't know how it is to be enforced. People on the Highway Patrol, the State Patrol, as it is called in Nebraska, are mere mortals. I know sometimes we entrust with and dump a lot on law enforcement agents and agencies, and just say if there is something that needs correcting, we will point out what that something is and leave it to the law enforcement agency to determine how. But if, when we are discussing it in legislative debate with the minds that we have in the Legislature here, not right this moment but when we are all here, we can't figure how it will be enforced. I know sometimes we entrust with and dump a lot on law enforcement agents and agencies and to say if there is something that needs correcting we will point out what