

CLERK: 7 ayes, 14 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment fails.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Okay. Senator Kristensen, would you like to proceed with opening on the bill.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. Members, we've discussed the measure at great length this morning via the amendments that have been here. I'd like to briefly touch...and there are several other things I'd like to bring out onto the bill that would probably take a period of time to do so. But at least to open for you, again, and review where we're at with the bill, this is a driver safety course bill. It is designed to get young people into driver training and driver education. This is not a bill to harass young people. This is not a bill to do anything. In fact I've talked to a number of younger people who agree. I've also talked to this task force on numerous occasions. The task force represents a broad range of people who have served for interest, law enforcement, to education, to insurance, and so on. The purpose is that we did, as Senator Nelson said, in the mid eighties, for financial reasons, cut out driver education. And driver education became very, very removed from our attention, and we sort of forgot about it, figuring it's just one of those unfortunate cuts that we'd have to make. When we made those cuts we saw the accidents rise, the fatalities rise. Now, Senator Crosby has a bill dealing with lowering the level of alcohol in the blood to .08. Senator Beyer has a bill on revocation for safer drunk drivers. We sat there for six or seven hours in committee, and the testimony of almost every one who showed up was, you know, if we could just get some more education, we wouldn't have to increase penalties, because penalties only work afterwards, they really don't get to the route of the problem before it starts, in driver education. Now this state chose not to have a mandatory seat belt law, but it also shows that the number of younger people is increasing, as well, for those who don't wear the seat belt, whether that's out of indifference or lack of education I'm not sure. But these courses would be designed to bring back that awareness and that education. There are other statistics that I could bring to you and think it's important for the