

time, when it was seven cents, at that time, a quarter of it went to the local government, 75 percent went to the state and half of that 75 percent went to the Driver's Education Fund, the other half going to the General Fund. Well, then in 1981 the Legislature passed LB 207 which raised the fee from seven to ten dollars and basically stripped much of that language and earmarking. And basically what it did, the state General Fund after LB 207, the counties kept what they always got the old \$7 fee but of the new fee now, \$8.25 came all into the General Fund but, at the same time, that that 8.25 went into the General Fund, we increased the amount reimbursed to schools from 40 to 80 dollars. And so many people have said that \$3 increase was raised for the Driver's Education Fund and I guess that is an arguable point but, nevertheless, we went up to \$10 where it is now and after the passage of LB 207, \$5.62.5 of the \$10 fee went to driver's education up until 1985 when the Legislature in LB 5 in the special session trimmed that out of the state budget and then kept that entire \$5.62.5 into the General Fund and it was, at that time, was worth about a million and a half dollars. And it's one of those things that the decision made then was that, you know, as far as priorities, that was important but it, obviously, in a budget cutting time was a time where we could no longer afford to do that. Well, actually, you know, at that point in time, we project at least that if that entire \$5.62.5 still went to the Driver's Education Fund, you'd probably be talking 1.6, \$1.7 million. And actually when we repealed the law back in 1985 when \$80 was reimbursed for each student that completed it, it cost the state about \$1.3 million. And so there is not an entirely good estimate as to how much exactly it would cost if you pass this amendment and actually the amendment itself doesn't take money out of the driver's license fee, it doesn't change that, it only says that the state will now pay \$80. And, obviously, if it's 1.3, \$1.4 million cost to do this, you can either cut other programs, raise taxes, possibly if you wanted to, you could raise the driver's license fee again or you may want to go back and earmark the driver's license fee specifically like it was prior to 1981. Nevertheless, that's details and I guess the question is I don't think anybody here this morning I have heard has argued against the importance of driver's education. The real issue is, how are you going to fund it? Is the state...is it important enough to us as policymakers of the state to fund a portion of it or is it something that we're not willing to fund, we think it's important that we're going to...we want to force the schools to offer? That's my second amendment, would basically make it