

I do support Senator Coordsen's amendment 1324.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Baack, members of the Legislature, I guess I would like to ask a few questions, if I may, perhaps of Senator Kristensen. I think, obviously, on these kinds of questions one of the considerations is safety and I assume that the reason that we have this law is because these kinds of large vehicles, combination of truck tractors and semitrailers are a lot more difficult to handle than other kinds of vehicles and, consequently, the licensing procedure is much more...is much more difficult. Senator Kristensen, could I ask you, is that pretty much correct? I mean, what is the...

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...reason for the laws?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: The reason for the commercial drivers' license itself?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: It was born out of a national movement that with more and more people on the road, particularly semis and that the country was moving more in that direction there was a real safety issue. You had accidents by people, for example, some of the bus accidents that you saw that were commercial operators that had just some real bad occurrences. Congress saw fit to say, in the interest, as you said, in the interest of safety that we're going to have people and there's got to be some checks and some minimal maintenance done on the operation. You have to have an extensive knowledge examination, for example, on a semi with air brakes there's an additional class on those sorts of things for operation. And then there is also the physical requirements and you also see restrictions, for example, of the drug and alcohol standards where we have a .10 or, as Senator Crosby has proposed, a .08 tolerance, this is .04 that you can lose your commercial operator's license from minimal amounts, all done in the area of safety and concerns. It is a burden. It's a burden on those. I don't think there's hardly anybody that likes that but it is done in terms of safety and I think the industry has accepted that and these exceptions are from those people that don't like that burden.