

MOTOR VEHICLES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

23 October 2007

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: As with the other bills I have spoken on this evening, we support the second reading of this bill. Indeed, there is little doubt that the most significant aspect of this bill is found in clause 15, which contains the provisions for service of licence disqualification notices. The bill removes a loophole where drivers who have been disqualified via demerit points can avoid conviction by claiming that the notice was not received. Family First has raised concerns regarding this loophole on a number of occasions.

Indeed, I asked a question without notice about this very issue on 28 September last year in this place where I referred to the loophole and also to *The Advertiser* article of 1 January 2006, which reported that almost one-third of motorists responsible for fatal car crashes in 2005 were—or previously had been—disqualified from driving. In essence, these people are poor drivers. They are responsible for disproportional levels of injury and death on our roads, and there definitely should not be any loopholes to give them an excuse if they are found behind the wheel.

I think that this bill will increase safety on South Australia's roads, and I commend the minister for introducing it. I think that even non-Labor members acknowledge that the minister is quite determined to improve road safety. She has been responsive to the concerns raised by Family First on this issue in the past and, as I said, we commend her for that. We support this bill.