

New law ties underage drinking to driver's license

Editorial

Imagine driving home late at night and suddenly bright lights come up over the hill from a car swerving in and out of their lane. The person behind the wheel of that car is an intoxicated 17-year-old who is coming home from a party. In order to stop situations like this, Nebraska's State Legislature has passed a "Use It & Lose It" law creating a harsher punishment for any underage drinkers. Having the potential to being a great law, the law needs a few changes added in order to fix any loop holes or problems.

The law states that any one under the age of 18 who consumes alcohol will have their license revoked for 30 days and must attend an alcohol education class for a first offense. A second offense results in a removal of the license for 90 days, attend an alcohol education class, and complete 20-40 hours of community service. For those third-time offenders, a loss of the license for



12 months, attend an alcohol education class, complete no fewer than 60 hours of community service, and submit to an alcohol assessment. Also, the offender does not have to be drinking in order to be ticketed. This law is an addition to the existing Minor in Possession law that's in effect. The MIP

consequences state an offender is subjected up to three months in jail, and a \$500 fine.

Although this new law has the basic principles to help keep those underage drinkers off the road, it still has its faults. LB258 states the consequences for those above 21 who provide alcohol for minors, but in some cases some may feel as if those providing the alcohol have it easier if caught than the minors who consume it. Also, this law is in effect for any minor who is drinking, either while driving or not, which isn't fully fair. If the minor never planned on driving while intoxicated why should he/she be punished the same as one who is caught behind the wheel?

While providing a way to try and stop underage kids from drinking and keeping them off the road while intoxicated, the "Use It & Lose It" law serves a great purpose, but for the full effect, LB258 needs to be amended.

Skeeter's down-home cooking will not disappoint

Review



by Emma Mattingly

Looking for a good country atmosphere with great country food? Well, look no further than Skeeter Barnes in Columbus.

Food Selection: There's a great variety of foods ranging from barbequed meats to fire grilled steaks. There is also a selection of non-barbequed plates consisting of chicken and seafood and a few countrified sandwiches. Without a doubt, these selections will not disappoint!

Food Suggestion: I would recommend the hickory grilled bacon wrapped shrimp with a side of garlic mashed potatoes.

Quality: The food is amazing! I don't like mushrooms, but their Happy Mushrooms side dish was to die for! And, of course, the Skeeter original sweet potato chips were the absolute perfect touch to the entire meal. Starting at just six dollars you can get a large bowl of endless chips. (We went through almost two!)

Prices: The prices here are relatively affordable. The prices range from appetizers starting at \$5.99 to prime rib at \$20.99. However, most meals tend to stay around the \$10-12 range.

Atmosphere/Service: Service here was awesome. The waiters/waitresses check on you often enough to fill your half-full drink or restock your complimentary bread and butter. But, the best part for sure was the warm, moist hand towels given at the end of the meal. This Skeeter Barnes has the

typical country decor, with a mid-sized windmill *inside* the restaurant to greet you! There are also five flat screen TV's over the bar, all playing some type of sport. There's so much space that it can hold up to 200 people.

Overall: Skeeter Barnes is a great place to eat. The service is friendly and the food is delicious for a great price. You won't be disappointed!

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As We See It

How do you feel about the fact that, under the new MIP Law, you can also get your license suspended?

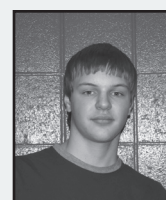
"I would like to keep my license and just get a warning."

Barrett Sieck, freshman



"If I wasn't driving I would be mad."

Cody Kovar, sophomore



"I think it's fair. If you're stupid enough to do something illegal, you're too stupid to be driving."

Lucas Schmidt, junior



"It's unfair because it punishes your parents more than you; they are the ones who have to drive you around everywhere."

Steven Varela, senior

