

made and these are among the reasons that I will be opposing this bill and would urge others of you to do so as well. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, very briefly and more for the record and maybe for personal benefit than anything else, yeah, there are some drafting errors, but I guess that's true in almost any piece of legislation and I'm sure that given time and whatever, they'll be overcome. I do believe that it's time to vote on the bill now and really it gets down to this, a complete change in philosophy and policy in the state and the question is whether you want that policy change or not. The policy change is going to be totally local control, but, more than that, local standards which are going to be as variable as the various communities. Is that good or is that bad? I think it's probably unwise in an area like liquor where you have the following. Number one, a history of uniform standards statewide so that somebody investing a million or two million or \$100,000 in an establishment that as a part of it has to have a liquor license so that they have predictability, stability, there is not capriciousness. At least you have a uniform state standard and you have hundreds of millions of dollars invested already in this state on that premise. Liquor licenses, whether we like to face the fact or not, are a vital part of a number of businesses in the state. The liquor license may determine whether that business succeeds or fails or whether it even comes into existence and at least, as it is now, you do have a uniform standard and you do have a uniform standard that when it is challenged you can go to the court. And even though you'll be able to go to court, I think that's all you'll be able to do under this new proposal is go to the court. A second reason I am concerned is that historically in those states, I believe if you'll check, where they have had the totally local control there has been abuse, maybe not in one area but in enough of them that it makes the policy of liquor almost the policy of power in the local area. A local sheriff, for example, and officials can use it for improperly financing various things, for leveraging and having control of an area and I think we have examples of this in many of the southern states. I am opposed to the bill, but I am in favor strongly now that the amendment has been adopted of advancing the bill and getting it to the Governor. It's time to face up to the fact, if you're against the bill, that the votes are here for the bill, therefore, do what has to be done which is vote on it.