

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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March 22, 1999      LB 637  
                            LR 29

of the federal government to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries. Resolution was introduced on February 9 of this year, Mr. President; at that time, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee for a public hearing. Resolution was reported back to the Legislature for further consideration. Committee amendments were adopted and considered on March 4. That time Senator Jensen requested to pass over the resolution. I do have an amendment pending to the resolution this morning, Mr. President, by Senators Jensen and Chambers.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. To open on Legislative Resolution 29, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. As you'll recall, this resolution that petitions Congress and the President of the United States to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement proceeds, when the resolution was last discussed, Senator Chambers expressed some concern about how the resolution was drafted. This amendment rewrites the "whereas" clauses of the resolution in a way, I believe, that is agreeable to Senator Chambers but does not alter the intent or the substance of the resolution. I want to thank both Senator Chambers and Attorney General for their cooperation on this issue, and the question now currently being debated in Congress and the sending of this resolution is certainly timely and appropriate. I just might add that last week there was an amendment by Harkin, a Specter, Harkin and Durbin amendment, which would have required states to spend 50 percent of their total settlement funds in certain ways. This amendment was voted down soundly and now there is still the amendment of the Hutchison amendment, from Texas, that would prohibit the federal government from recoupment. I just might add that the federal government just seems intent upon putting restrictions, requirements on all of...or, of course, its grants, its aids, all of those come with strings, many times very expensive strings, expensive requirements, expensive reporting, and this causes then the states to enlarge upon the bureaucracy that we have in order to do reporting and it's just typical of the many things that we even have before us this year. LB 637 is an example. In order to hold on to \$15 million, the state must come up with a reporting system that