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FLOOR DEBATE

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Amendment give the states the express and direct authority to regulate the sale, transportation and importation of alcohol within its borders. Alcohol isn't like other products that aren't regulated and can pass...and then can pass to a consumer unmonitored. South Dakota, Indiana and Michigan have all dealt with this issue recently and have more restrictive laws than we...than what we are asking here for today. Many states in the nation are also "do not ship" states, which means that no importation of alcohol is allowed there. Nebraska is not that restrictive. We allow our citizens the freedom to obtain alcohol from other states in a reasonable quali...quantity. We just want those shippers to pay the same fees and taxes that our own businesses' owners have to pay. The fiscal note on this bill estimated that it will bring in a quarter of a million dollars a year for the state of Nebraska. With all the talk lately of spending more money, it's nice to be able to bring a bill that will actually bring revenue into the General Fund from out of state. This is not, however, just a revenue issue. It is also an accountability and enforcement issue. If these shippers are not required to get a shipping license, they will also be required to comply with our liquor laws. This means that they would be required to file financial reports, be subject to an audit of their expenses, and would have their license revoked or suspended upon any of the violations, just like happen with our retailers in this state. There was an attempt in South Dakota to liberalize direct shipment rules recently. As an experiment to see how much oversight is necessary for these companies, the Governor had an underage intern in his office order alcohol over the Internet. By the end of the week, an inmate was working in the mail room, brought a package addressed to a minor that had been left by a delivery service. It was an unmarked package containing the alcohol. Governor Janklow vetoed the bill which would have provided less oversight for these shippers. These types of problems would be addressed by the Liquor Control Commission if this bill was passed. Michigan has reached a settlement with UPS that the shipping company will no longer deliver alcohol to...by shippers that have not obtained a license to do so. I think this bill is constitutional. The constitutionality is there. It's enforceable and will result in a \$250 addition to our General Fund from companies out of state. If you have any questions, I