

March 30, 1981

LB 258

the bill. Then we have a motion on the desk.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I move the advancement of this bill, LB 258, and I will try to explain it to you and clarify some of the things that were misstated on the floor. This bill was introduced by the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee as a result of an interim study this past summer. The bill provides for a Class K beer and wine off-sale license. The committee felt that this license would fill a void or a gap in Nebraska's existing licensed beverage laws. Currently in order to sell wine off-sale, a retailer must have a license, a Class A and a Class D license which would permit the sale of beer, wine and liquor. Now what this bill does, this makes a new license, a Class K license, that would permit a retailer to obtain a license to sell only beer and wine and this way he wouldn't need to have the license that says that he could sell hard liquor. This bill, I feel, would close the last gap in our licensed beverage laws. Due to increased consumer demand of wine and the lack of a specific license for an off-sale wine, this bill, LB 258, is a timely and a positive step towards a reasonable and effective license of alcohol beverages in Nebraska. I urge your support for the bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Vickers moves to indefinitely postpone LB 258.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I suppose I put this motion up for some of the same reasons that Senator Clark and Senator Dworak were talking for the bill. They seem to think we need more outlets or more competition, if you will. I look around my area, I look around the entire State of Nebraska, and I really can't say that I see a gap, as Senator Hefner indicated, as far as areas where alcoholic beverages cannot be purchased. I don't happen to know where those gaps are at and I enjoy a nip of wine occasionally myself, Senator Hefner, and I haven't run into too much difficulties finding a place to buy it. I think we might as well be right up front. I read the bill book and the people that are supporting this and I will also mention for Senator Remmers' benefit that I am not putting this up on behalf of the Licensed Beverage Association either. But I do notice that the people supporting this, the majority of them, are representing food markets, supermarkets. That tells me something. That tells me who is really going to use this license if this extra gap is there or if this extra outlet is needed. I was over in Iowa this past weekend. You can go to about any 7-Eleven store or any food market in the State