

for banning the free distribution of these smokeless tobacco products regardless of age. There can be no reason, I can see, to object to this legislation because what we do is we provide some reasonableness as far as the health concerns for our youth are concerned and we do realize that these products are not only addictive and carcinogenic, they cause premature death of people of our state, and I see that there can be no legal or moral objection to this particular bill. I think the legislation is pure and simple. It simply says the tobacco companies cannot give this sampling out and it is going to provide some penalties for that. I think the first offense penalty would be like a \$500 fine, and each offense after that would be from 600 to 1,000, and each separate gift of this tobacco...free sampling, each separate free sampling would constitute a separate offense. I have no difficulties with the legislation. I think it is extremely valid, and I think it is very important for the youth of our state, and I would urge your passing this bill on to Select File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, you have something on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend the bill. The amendment is found on page 492 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. I am just taking a minute to get a copy of the Journal. Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Dierks and I are going to have a slight disagreement on this particular bill and I hope others in the Chamber will as well. Let me give you a little history of the bill, if I can. Last year I sat on the Health and Human Services Committee. I was privileged to serve with Senator Wesely and others on that committee, and I was, in a way, sometimes disappointed I am not on that committee because of the tremendous things they try to do in the health area. But this bill did come up last year as Senator Arlene Nelson's bill on smokeless tobacco, and the intention of the bill at that point was, and what we were led to believe at that particular point, that we wanted to stop minors from obtaining the free samples and becoming addicted to nicotine and tobacco products. And one of the things that was given to the committee was that at the State Fair, in fact Senator Schellpeper on the committee and