

PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: My amendment would basically make some, I think, substantial changes in the bill to make it better. My amendment says, let's don't fool ourselves. Adults, if we're going to allow them to buy the product, they should be allowed to receive a free sample of their own choosing if they so desire. That will have no effect on young people because they will get the product regardless because it is on the market. What I say is, let's make the penalty stiffer for those people giving samples or giving the product illegally to minors. Let's make the penalty stiff enough that they will really look and think twice and my amendment does that. My amendment says for each sample given there will be a Class III fine misdemeanor, for each sample, not just for each activity. It also says the following: Let's go one step further. Let's go to the public schools, and the Dental Association has a big handout they, on green paper, they sent out saying, go by the schools and look at the terrible smoking problem. I agree. LB 48 does nothing for that, for the smoking problem, because it is dealing with smokeless tobacco. My amendment would because people die every day of cancer from smoking. My amendment would say it will be illegal for a minor to buy and possess, and if a student or person within a school or somehow downtown has a can of Copenhagen or Skoal in their back pocket or cigarettes in their pocket or hidden somewhere that I can find... I can see that where they are, I now can say, son or gal, that's illegal. You cannot have that on your person and it can be confiscated or I can go ahead and charge them with a Class V misdemeanor by turning it in to the authorities if I so desire. If you want to do something for our kids, let's go a little step further and the Bernard-Stevens amendment, that's the only first time I've said the name Bernard-Stevens amendment, so I'll try not to do that as much, for those who are counting it.

PRESIDENT: One minute. One minute according to your time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The amendment offered at this particular time will go the extra step to help truly stop minors from smoking of all products because it is bad. I might also point out that there is one... that I checked with the teacher association because there is a rumor out there saying it would be impossible for a... too big a burden for teachers to handle, and I've been assured that they have no problem on enforcing of LB 48 as I would like to amend. Thank you, Mr. President.