

alongside of soda pop in a grocery store. Several people objected to that, several organizations, and I took the opportunity to introduce the bill and do what exactly what the committee was trying to do last year, what the Liquor Control Commission was trying to do, and that the beer wholesalers were also not objecting...wanted to do as far as remove it from the taxation part. I would like to emphasize that during the introduction of this bill and through all the stages of discussion that we have had great cooperation from the beer wholesalers, that they believe this is a proper thing and that it should be under the Liquor Control Commission. It was never their intention to market this as just a product like pop because, indeed, it is...it does have some other implications that suggest that it shouldn't be alongside the soda pop in a grocery store. I understand it's not a very big bill and I don't want to take a whole lot of time. I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have or listen to some comments. Failing that, I would move for the advancement of 441 to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pirsch, please, followed by Senator Baack.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I just rise in wholehearted, enthusiastic support of LB 441. Near beer looks like beer, tastes like beer, smells like beer and, indeed, it is beer. It's beer that is boiled the alcohol down to less than one-tenth of 1 percent. It is not a good idea to have our children weaned on near beer and this came out very clearly in the proponents of the hearing. In fact, one young girl testified that she saw a boy drinking a can of beer in the cafeteria. Indeed, I brought some to the committee hearing and opened it because it is not a regulated substance. It is good that Senator Hannibal caught this and that it be taken care of as quickly as possible. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Baack, please. Senator Hannibal, would you like to close, please.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. President. No further comments as long as Senator Baack is not going to comment. I appreciate that. LB 441 will advance now with the emergency clause and kind of reinstate the category of near beer and put it back under the Liquor Control Commission. I would move for its advancement.