

from the Liquor Control Act shall be handled in accordance with these sections as set out here with this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Smith. Does anyone wish to address this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing? Closing is waived. We will proceed to vote on the Smith amendment to LB 344. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Smith's amendment to the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted. Now we'll proceed with LB 344. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the body, Senator Nelson is correct. If you look at your bill it could frighten you a little bit. It is pretty hefty, but as I've stated before, this is really the process of rewriting the act and that began a year and a half ago with committee counsel and has been continued on then during the interim by the new committee counsel and in conjunction with the Liquor Commission and in work with a lot of other people that are involved in the industry. Basically this process, as I said, has gone on for a long time and there is no substantive or policy changes in this legislation. To that end we've been very careful not to make any changes that would affect anyone's license and basically, in addition to the technical changes in the act. The act has been restructured so that it flows in a more rational form. Because the act has been amended a lot of times over the years since its enactment in 1935, it has become disorderly and very confusing to work with and to read and understand. So after the draft had been completed it was sent out to representatives. As I've said, they have all gone through it, they've all put their comments back in on it. There is a consensus among everyone that this is the best that we can do with actually going through the Liquor Act itself and the rewrite of all the statutes pertaining to it. At the hearing on the bill there was no opposition to it and the liquor and beer wholesalers indicated their total support for the changes that had been made. If there are questions, I'll do my best and I can go through, if you would like me, summary-by-summary of each...I mean a section-by-section summary, but that is the basis of what the bill is all about.