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LB 849

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to ask, if I could, for some clarification from Senator Schmit.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Schmit, do you yield?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I will yield, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Schmit, just to make sure that I know what exactly you're attempting to do here, you would be replacing...basically, you would have a manufacturer, then you would have the department be acting in a role of the distributor. The department would take the place of the distributor, right?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is right, Senator.

SENATOR SMITH: And that would eliminate that in between layer, if you want to call it that. The state would actually take that place and I guess that, you know, this is something that we have discussed somewhat in the General Affairs Committee in the past. It might even be conducive to eliminating some of the illegal activity you're talking about and also some of the regulation problems that the department has had in the past. I'm not so sure but what maybe I might be supportive of this.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, (interruption).

SENATOR SMITH: I'd like to hear a little more discussion from you, if you would. I will give you the remainder of my time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, well, thank you, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Again, the idea was not entirely original with me, as you know, we've discussed it in the past a little bit. And I did visit with Mr. Stanek in Iowa several times about it and they are very, very pleased with the manner in which it is handled over there. And, as he pointed out to me, and, as I pointed out earlier today, a dollar pickle is like a dollar bill and ought to be treated the same way because anytime that you get that kind of material into circulation, if it's not very, very closely monitored, then the opportunity for theft and for misappropriation becomes very apparent. It might be, Senator Smith, that if perhaps...let's see, I guess we're on General