

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President and members, I think maybe, Senator Robak, that I could help you a little bit in understanding a situation in Hastings that brought...or highlighted this what's happening here. There was an application for a liquor license and it was across the street from the high school. And so we had a great deal of concern in our community over the granting of that liquor license. What the City of Hastings was saying that with that situation they did not feel that they had the explicit right, the way it is now because it is not clearly stated, to deny that liquor license and if they did, they would open themselves up to litigation and this was by review, you know, of an attorney. So I think what this does is clearly state to the communities that they do have that right to deny or approve. And I think it's something very important and I think what happened in Hastings did nothing more than to highlight what could be possible problems in other communities as they face that decision whether to grant or not to grant because it's not clear and I think what this does is make it clear and clearly state it and then gives those municipalities clear direction and firm ground to stand on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Senator Bohlke, for your explanation. And also I will use that same context in, for instance, the people that...or the school, or the residents of the area that didn't want the liquor license across the street from the high school, you could use that same philosophy that perhaps there's an empty, vacant building two blocks down from the local tavern and decides to start a day-care center there. This local tavern has been there for 35 or 40 years and now these people can come and say, I don't want that liquor license there anymore because we have this day-care here for these children and it doesn't look good to be outside of them and people are going back and forth into this liquor establishment when they've had...when they've had their liquor license for many years. And if you can deny a license across the street from a...from a high school, you could probably also take away a license that's been in existence with this, if that's the intent. Otherwise, if it isn't, then let's leave it alone. Yes, you can have some time.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Robak. That really isn't, you know, the concerns over if each city would grant or not