

already on General File?

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Moore, your amendment was an amendment to the committee amendments, and so I am going to rule that this technically is at a different stage. Do you wish to speak on the amendment?

SENATOR MOORE: I will live with that ruling and move forward. I would like to speak on the amendment, if I might. As Senator Schimek had mentioned, I mean, the other day there was some question as to what exactly the amendment we adopted did in reality. I think I applaud Senator Schimek for going out and doing some research; and, actually, if you look at the numbers she presented, and if we can extrapolate that that one business operator was similar to those in the rest of the state, I would argue that you've cut the access to minors having cigarettes by more than half in the vending machines. Because if of those 200 and some, 52 were in a nonpublic place, the remainder is, I mean, actually but you have taken a giant step forward, and a giant step forward by getting them out of places, hallways in office buildings, family restaurants that don't have liquor licenses, a variety of places that have vending machines that have nothing to do with liquor...I mean over half of them, over half of the ones in public places are put out of business under this amendment. I think that is a step forward and I think it is the proper step forward, because as I mentioned before, I agree with Senator Schimek in her endeavor to limit the access minors have to vending machines with cigarettes, but at the same time, I don't think we have to go too far and, you know, tremendously really accomplish little on the next step of taking them out of licensed liquor establishments, and we are accomplishing more harm to those citizens of the State of Nebraska that choose to smoke. And so I think by...we can extrapolate different things from the numbers Senator Schimek brought us. I think those numbers show us that the amendment that we did offer the other day did something. You've severely cut back the number of vending machines that minors have access to. Arguably there are some family restaurants that minors are allowed in. That is still a problem. We tried to, with my amendment we just adopted, is to keep them in on the licensed premises. It is our hope, but we can't...it varies from city to city but, in many cases, we have actually got them out of the entryway hallway into some place where either the owner of the business or the neighbors that see Johnny and Sally buying cigarettes will see them do it and keep that from happening. So