

SPEAKER BAACK: Any objection? No objection, so ordered. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 27, LB 119, LB 262, LB 452, and LB 543. Mr. Clerk, we will go to Item 7 on the agenda, senator priority bills, LB 291.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 291 was a bill introduced by Senator Beyer and others. (Read title.) The bill was discussed yesterday, Mr. President, by the Legislature. At that time, Senator Kristensen offered the committee amendments as prepared by the Transportation Committee. Senator Hall offered amendments to the committee amendments. I have pending, Mr. President, an amendment to the committee amendments by Senator Hall, who I believe is excused until he arrives.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Will, you are going to carry the amendment, is that correct? First...I think, first of all, I am going to give Senator Kristensen five minutes to just kind of update us where we sit on the committee amendments right now, and then, Senator Will, we will go to you. That will give you a little bit of preparation time, too. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. To focus your attention back into this issue, LB 291, Senator Beyer and other members' bill relating to drunk driving, we had several public hearings through last year, and as a result of those public hearings, we have come out with a ten-point committee amendment, which is a broad ranging amendment that does several things to the drunk driving statutes in our criminal law in the State of Nebraska. To briefly go through those, the broad range of things included increasing of penalties. We also tack on the motor vehicle license revocation at the end of motor vehicle felony cases. We have designated to have drunk driving laws apply to every area except private property which is not open to the public, which expands the drunk driving law to parking lots, those of malls, those of apartment complexes, people's front yards, and so on like that, which really I think is a needed enforcement tool. The other ones that we have done, a zero tolerance for minors with a policy that you are not to be drinking as a minor possessing, and even if you are under a very limited exception allowed to do that at home, that the social responsibility and the social policy should be you don't go ahead and drive as a minor under a small tolerance. Now we have changed the areas of qualified