

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, and Senator Jensen, this is a bill I wish I could vote against. This is a bill...if I had voted against this bill, it couldn't have come out of committee. But, as I stated earlier, and I couldn't go into detail about it, I have to weigh what, to me, are principles, and this is really a bill that goes into the area of principle for me because I am so opposed to what smoking is doing to people, but my opposition has to go to the companies and the activities they are engaging in to try to persuade people to smoke, but I can't do something to punish somebody who chooses to smoke. The punishment for smoking goes along with the smoking, and I'm not saying somebody should get lung cancer or emphysema or any of the other multitude of ailments that accompany tobacco smoking. It has been shown that educational programs and public disapproval and opposition have gone a long way toward diminishing smoking. This is one of the reasons that there is a huge and, in my mind, immoral concerted effort to dump cigarettes into other countries around the world and export those tremendous health problems. But this bill is not dealing with all of that. What the bill is dealing with now is not the abolition of smoking or is it an attempt to go back to the days when nobody could drink any alcohol without violating the law. I don't drink or smoke. In fact, Senator Jensen, I live such a clean life, I could go to heaven without dying if they still allowed that, but I think that went out with Elijah, but, at any rate, see, even Jesus had to die to go back to heaven, so we know that I can't do it that way. All we're really talking about...and I hope we can look beyond our personal attitude towards smoking, drinking, or any of these other activities, to the right of a person to hold a job. If the person does not violate any of the work rules, that person should not be disciplined, nor should that person lose the job. I want to emphasize, along with what Senator Hudkins was getting to, if any person conducts himself or herself in the workplace, whether pursuant to the ingestion or consumption of legal products off the workplace or not, in a way that violates the rules of the place or they don't do their duty, you can fire them. That should remain in place. This bill does not touch on that at all. What it is saying is leave everything that an employer has as a legitimate prerogative in terms of regulating and firing and hiring in place. Leave all that in a box. It's not to be touched. We're outside of that box in saying that an area outside that box, over which the employer has no jurisdiction,