

February 10, 1995 LB 121

someone does do this, because I have compassion, it doesn't allow for any jail time, and it...thank you. It does, though, allow for a fine if the fine is so set. However, it could mean that there would be absolutely no penalty on the first offense. The second offense, there would be a minimum of a hundred dollar fine, but that is the second offense. It seems that in doing this, in representing the various agencies, organizations, and individuals who I named earlier, that I have frequently heard that the policy of accommodation that the Clean Indoor Air Act has allowed for in the last 15 years of its enactment has really not accommodated the nonsmoker, and that there really has been no teeth to the Clean Indoor Air Act. Consequently, although we have a policy, people who choose not to smoke, which according to recent surveys in the State of Nebraska, right now is 80 percent of our population, and those people are not really being accommodated. Those folks are not really being protected, and even the Clean Indoor Air Act, they say, has no real teeth, no real enforcement powers, and really is not doing very much to protect them. This bill, I think, is a minor step. It does not mandate to municipalities. It does not...it is not an unfunded mandate because, as I will point out later, there really is a great savings to the state in many respects and is actually no cost. When I say no cost, that also includes the programs that this bill would provide for in Section 3. The Health Department currently has programs established. Various agencies already have programs and literature. I have not distributed mounds of information to you, nor have I killed any trees to sacrifice in the name of this legislation, although it would certainly be a worthy way for them to go. So I, with that and with the concern for particularly the children who visit this building,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...and the employees who are forced into situations where they have no real choice, if they want their job, in many situations they are forced to breathe air that they believe is causing them health problems and is certainly a detriment to their well being. But particularly to the children in this building, to the artwork in this building, which I will address more later, I would certainly welcome your questions, and would invite your support, and would ask your favorable consideration of LB 121. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Hall, followed by Senator Wesely. Pardon me, pardon me, there is, in