

recognize the changes that have occurred in the retail community throughout the state. Under the current law, right now, persons who are 16 years and older to carry out beer, it allows them to carry out beer from grocery stores when accompanied by a person who is not a minor. Number two, a person who is 16 years old and older to handle beer containers and beer in the course of their employment at a grocery store. These provisions were adopted back when grocery stores traditionally sold beer only. Times have changed and the grocery stores now sell all types of liquor, yet carrying out and stocking alcohol, except beer, must be done by someone 18 years or older. This places an extreme hardship on the retail communities since they must now take these traditionally entry-level jobs for teenagers and assign those tasks to older employees. After this bill was introduced, the District Court of Lancaster County handed down a decision which necessitated additional changes to the statutes. In its order, the court ruled that the statute violated the equal protection right of other businesses by limiting these provisions to grocery stores. Because of this ruling, LB 586 was amended in committee to strike the language and caused the courts concern and also...it would cause the courts concern and also struck similar language in the same section that specified restaurants and other special classes. The amendment, as before you now, which has been passed out, will allow the following. Persons who are 16 years of age or older will be able to carry out alcoholic liquor from licensed establishment when accompanied by a person who is not a minor. Number two, the persons who are 16 years and older will be able to handle alcoholic liquor containers and alcoholic liquor in the course of their employment. Persons who are 16 years and older will be able to remove and dispose of alcoholic liquor containers for the convenience of their employer and customers in the course of their employment. Nothing in this amendment or in the original bill lowers the age at which a person can sell alcoholic liquor in Nebraska. These changes simply bring Nebraska statutes up to date with the recent court decision and recognizes the changes that have occurred in the retail community. If you have any questions, I would certainly try to answer them.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Withem, on the Janssen amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, and members of the body, number one, I would rise to support the Janssen amendment. On those incredibly rare occasions when I'm in a grocery store