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LB 126

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Further discussion on the Chambers amendment to the committee amendments. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on your amendment. Senator Chambers waives closing. The question before us is the Chambers amendment to the committee amendments to LB 126. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Chambers' amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is adopted. Discussion on the committee amendments. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I can fully respect and sympathize with a chairman trying to work a bill out with contentious parties and Stan has labored hard in the vineyards to try to do that. I also am going to vote against the committee amendments because in this situation the accommodation that was reached, I think, goes too far and doesn't reflect my sense of what is appropriate status of a piece of policy. Let me go back a little ways for some history, and I think it was two years ago, as it works out now, maybe two years ago, we had a bill in, suggested by the Liquor Control Commission, I happened to carry the bill on their behalf, and it said that the fining penalty which exists should have an additional form of tool that the commission could use, and that was instead of suspending licenses and then having this in lieu of fine, that the fact that the...the licenses would be temporarily suspended, that, in fact, being the retailers couldn't buy themselves out of it. And the Liquor Control Commission wanted that authority to be able to prescribe that. One of the reasons is that the fines were not always appropriate. In some cases, if they were a huge retailer, the fines were minimal. In other cases, if you had a very small operation, the fines, which might operate, would be very large compared to what their actual retail sales were. And the commission wanted the power to say, look, you are profiting from alcohol, we're going to take away, on a temporary basis, your power to sell alcohol. And if it's you're a big retailer, that will hit you a little hard; if you're a small retailer, that won't hit you as much, and it will flow based on the size of