

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 31, 1999 LB 585

can take these things and say this is or this would be a violation, or how do we get around this. Those are the concerns. But, as a general principle, whether we had the federal requirement or not, I still think it's a good idea not to have open beverage, alcohol containers in the passenger portion of vehicles. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Speaker Kristensen, you're recognized.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I...Senator Bromm, I probably have a great concern about the whole bill in terms of some of the things that it does, particularly this section. But I want to talk to the body a little bit about federal mandates, and what our approach has been in the past, and what I think our reasoned approach is to take in the future with these sorts of things. We're given deadlines. And this particular deadline, I think the mandate is approximately 18 months away. It's true, on whether it was what we just did yesterday, with the placarding, with the trucks, with the Federal Highway Administration and so on. They set those mandates way out into the future. They make them strict. And what...the wise approach to them is you don't comply right away with them. And the reason you don't do that is they tend...they can change, they can soften compliance. Because the real reason for these things is because they make great headlines. The President of the United States, Congress can go out and make wonderful headlines with these mandates. We're going to save peoples lives. Here's this list of bills, here's the things we're going to do and we're going to save peoples lives. They make great headlines. And what happens is Congress doesn't have to implement them, of course, they let the states do that. And it just isn't this. This is probably a very...I mean this is a worthy goal, because what you want to prevent people from doing is being drunk and drive. That's the purpose for this; we don't want people who are impaired driving and killing people. Who does want that? There's no one that wants that to happen. The issue is that you take and put these mandates out there. And it does make for good press, it really does. At the same time you have a wide variety of people who are innocently caught into these items, and you're not going to impact drunk driving deaths one bit. And so the approach that