

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

March 31, 1999 LB 585

this Legislature has taken in the past and in other ones is that you...let's say that this wide compliance is out here. You've got to walk a mile to totally comply with them. The wise thing to do is you go part way. Then you go a little bit further later. And after a period of years, it's as what happened yesterday, remember, we backtracked on a federal mandate yesterday. Why? Is because if we would have taken that approach of a little bit at a time and not complied totally with it, the mandate would have changed, and we wouldn't have gone through the headaches and the hassles that we've been through. We've always done that, and I think that's a very good approach. The ability to snap to it as soon as the federal government tells you, you've got to do this, will lead you, it will freeze you into areas that you'll never be able to change from. I assume, Senator Bromm, what we're doing here is saying these are federal mandates, and if we don't comply with the federal mandates we're going to lose money; we can't lose money, it doesn't matter what the provisions are. And I...as a Chair, I mean, that's a reasonable approach to take. But at the same time, the Legislature has got to decide, look, we're the ones that had to put this policy out here for our citizens. And if you're going to have a family dinner, because the example that gets used all the time is here's this carload of drunks who are all passing the beer around, and we don't know which one of them is going to get behind the wheel next. That is an example that can happen. What's a more likely example? You have a Christmas dinner; you have a bottle of wine and, because they aren't a bunch of alcoholics and a bunch of lushes, they don't drink the whole bottle. Instead of pouring it down the sink, you put a cap on it, or a cork back on it and you drive home. Open container, violation. That happens a lot more than the other incidents happen.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The difference with the living quarters in the cabin, that's done to politically soften it. There's no difference. I mean if you're in a...if you're in a motor home, it's just as bad to have an open container in a mobile home as it is a car. Why is there an exception? So it's a little politically easier to swallow. Well, what about those in a mini van? They aren't going to get close to the driver compartment,