

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

March 31, 1999 LB 585

homes. I would say to you that...that having seen that occur, the bill moves forward in this form that I am looking at, some definitions that we may need to insert. There are definitions at least in the federal rules of passenger area when it relates to passenger cars, but...and I am also in the amendment I am working on with Senator Beutler, we're going to have some rules and regs that will be required and so we might be able to deal with it in that fashion also. So this...this portion of the amendment deals with adoption of the open container provision as amended and I would encourage you to support it. I will remind everyone that we're not changing the law as it relates to it being illegal to consume alcohol on the highways and public...public parking areas of the state. That is already...already against the law in preexisting law 53-186, and that is not what this is about. This is about having an open container and driving down the road, an open container of alcohol, and one can make all kinds of scenarios that might sound like this is...is a ridiculous concept but I would suggest to you that as a...as a provision, it's...it's I think good policy not to have open cans of beer or other alcohol in the passenger compartments of vehicles on our highways. It is just not...I just don't think there is a reason for it, and we can take the care that we need to to...I don't see a problem going to or from grandmother's house for the Thanksgiving dinner, I really don't. I think if it is known that this law exists that we will take care and put our bottles of alcohol in the trunk of the automobile and that's probably a darn good idea anyway. I've always...I've always been concerned about driving with even unopened alcohol in the passenger compartment of the car because I just...I have often thought, what if I have an accident and what if that bottle goes flying all over the car and it breaks and I'm covered with wine, who is really going to be able to know if I had consumed part of that or not. I mean it creates a possible problem at least at the initial outset of the investigation of the accident that just isn't necessary to have. So I would encourage the body to adopt the second portion of the amendment. Thank you.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** You heard the closing. The question before the body is the adoption of Floor Amendment 83, which is the second component of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.