

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

May 4, 1999

LB 267

other than basically fine them or to throw them out of the business altogether. I've found a number of examples of three offenses within three months of selling to minors. That's somebody who's a slow learner. And in the most recent round of compliance checks in the Omaha area, about well over 20 percent of the places checked sold to minors. Of the 20 percent of places that were checked that sold to minors, half of them didn't check the idea...ID at all. One of the kids that was part of the compliance check was age 16. Sixteen-year-old walks in, buys liquor, doesn't get his ID checked--something's wrong. And towards that end, two years ago I offered one of the provisions that was recommended to us by the Liquor Control Commission. In their annual report it read, we would like to have the discretionary authority to temporarily suspend the power to sell alcohol, and when I read that in their annual report I asked the Bill Drafter to draft a bill. That bill was brought in, we had a public hearing. The bill was unsuccessful in committee and it was pulled from committee later on. It was a successful motion to pull that from committee and, yet, the time ran out that session, it happened to be the short session, it did not survive. That brought us into this most recent period of time and Senator Schellpeper asked, as a favor, would I yield to him the authority on this issue so that he could try to package something together that could be lived with by all parties. I gave him the language that I wanted in the bill. He introduced it that way. When it came out of committee it was different and it was packaged with a lot of other ideas. This Legislature then stripped the committee amendments with the exception of essentially this one piece, which was the use of this. Senator Schellpeper was unwilling to go forward with the bill in that form. We had a session in his office. I met with the retailers and with one of the representatives of the liquor lobby. We exchanged some offers as to what we would or would not do and there was no overlap between the two parties. Things that I would ask for, they couldn't accept; things that they would offer were things I couldn't accept. That left us with what had been a committee priority bill, which had been reported out, which had been put into shape by the entire Legislature, which would not go forward because of the introducer. This bill is also a committee priority bill. It's a General Affairs measure and this bill is on Select File. It is the return to the commission of authority which we attempted to give to the