

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

May 12, 1999

LB 267

and it's through their Executive Director, I get no sense that this becomes the tool of choice in every circumstance. This is a tool to use...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...in egregious circumstances and that's what I understand it's going to be used for.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Brown and Senator Landis. Senator Schmitt.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Madam President, members, I guess I just wanted to speak on this issue a little bit this morning. I have some concerns with the amendment. I'm not totally opposed to it, but some parts of it I am, and I am not sure how I'm going to vote on it yet. I think right at the present time, I'm probably not going to support it. But I guess some of the things that I look at when we talk about this issue, and it's not a big concern of mine one way or the other, I don't have any sympathy, really, for the retailers, and I don't have any sympathy for the liquor people, but I think the book should remain "shall". I think it's a law enforcement tool. I think it's used by law enforcement. I think one of the big issues up here that we're dealing with today is not with the retailer selling so much to the minor as what Senator Janssen addressed with the amount of adults that are making liquor available to minors, and the lack of prosecution, and the lack of carrying out the sentence with our courts. I'm almost to the point of getting tired of standing up here and talking about our court system and the prosecutors, but there is the problem. It's lack of prosecution. It's lack of carrying out the penalty that we already have on the books, and I just have a hard time of supporting any more penalty. And I think there's a lot more alcohol that is given to teenagers, sold to teenagers out here by individual adults than there is by the retailers out of the stores. I don't know how we're going to address this on the floor of the Legislature, but I think it's something that needs to be looked at to change our system. There are county attorneys out there that are putting these people on diversion