

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

May 12, 1999

LB 267

think there are many laws on the book that are probably not being followed anyway. And even though I think Senator Hilgert has merit in what he's doing, I think taking away a driver's license would probably, as many have indicated, have a great deal bigger effect on many kids than that fine does in this day and age when money seems to be as plentiful in many places, particularly young people, as it is. So with that, I'm prepared to support the Hilgert amendment, and whatever else may come to benefit this terrible...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...problem that we have in this country. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Vrtiska. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I had a chance, because of Senator Vrtiska, to say that essentially there are penalties and they are being provoked (sic--invoked). By the way, this appears in a public paper. There is a daily record that's published in the paper that shows that. And although there are as many as 310 violations a year before the commission, and action certainly is taken on those scores, the maximum, the maximum that a retailer pays with respect to a minor in possession on the first offense, under the ordinary course of events in the commission, is 500 bucks. So, I mean, the kid pays \$500 and the retailer pays \$500, under the current situation. So if the kid...if you think the kid is somehow walking away, not according to this, you know, the stories that I've got here. Secondly, in the Hilgert amendment, we, I think, as we recall from the General File debate, get into the difficulty of the compliance checks. I think the whole purpose there is to try to put limitations on that, to try to make them, you know, subject to a certain amount of politicization, which I think is a mistake. And we didn't have a chance to talk about that. I know there are those of you who want to have more serious penalties for kids, and I know that you want to tie it to the driver's license. We've done some things on hanging things onto the driver's license. I would just suggest to you this, that the people who will vote for LB 267 and the people who are intending now to vote against it...I think it seems to