

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

January 12, 2000 LB 505, 1035

CLERK: Just one, Mr. President, hearing notice from the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. That's all that I have.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, we're currently on the Beutler amendment to the Landis amendment to LB 505. (FA261, Legislative Journal page 262.) We will continue debate. I do not see Senator Wickersham, so the Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, at this particular point in time I've been satisfied that there's no need for the amendment that's currently pending and so I would withdraw it at this time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn. Senator Stuhr, on the Landis amendment to LB 505. (AM2018, Legislative Journal page 235.)

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. First of all, I just want to say that I really have appreciated the debate that's been taking place in regard to this issue and I think I'm probably among the senators that has wrestled a great deal with the issue and my philosophy has always been to oppose raising taxes in most cases. But I have to admit, from last session, that I have changed some of my consideration in regards to this bill and the fact that I do think that it is a health issue, very much. Last year I did vote against the bill, primarily because of how the money was collected and where it was going to go. I thought this was very, very vague and, when asked those questions in regard to this, I really had no idea how it was going to be distributed or where it was going to be distributed, so I certainly want to commend Senator Landis for clearing up and clarifying that particular issue. Another issue that...or concern that I had was actually it is illegal for minors to purchase tobacco. In that regard, I am introducing a bill this year, LB 1035, that makes...would make it illegal for a minor to possess, to receive, to purchase, to sell, to distribute, use or consume tobacco products. I am also proposing to raise that penalty to a Class III misdemeanor which is similar to possession of alcohol. I think that we need many tools in our toolbox to actually combat young people from this