

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

January 12, 2000 LB 505

alcohol. If it's an attractive enough thing to the merchant, he'll sell them, or if he won't, they'll find someone who is 21 to buy it. That's not a problem. This is not the way to go about it. My principal objection to this bill remains the same. It is the use of the state power to coerce, and if we can do it on this with a clear conscience, we can do it on any number of things. So let's tax everybody of everything they possess, and that will educate them. This is not the way to do it. It's a good end; it's a very poor means, and I ask that you consider that when you vote on this and then vote on the bill after. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: Good afternoon, Mr. President and members of the body. I have listened to all of this information this morning. I'm now going to get on my soapbox. I am one of the two licensed...one of the two registered nurses here in the body and, as a health-care professional, you don't have to wonder where I stand on this; and as a former school board member, you know I believe in proper choices in health for our students. Young people believe they're infallible, whether it comes to their sexual choices, whether it comes to their smoking and drinking choices. There are some that they'll just never listen to this. They're going to watch us, all of this agony down here. If there are smokers in their home who are not speaking against this or setting a good example, the children may follow that way, along with peer pressure. To be very radical, we could take these young people, require in their course of study in the health, take them out to have them watch autopsies, see the lungs of the people who have been smokers. That's a real education if they see someone who has had a cancer or an illness caused by smoking. Then, on the other spectrum, we could take them to nursing homes. Some of these people have chosen to smoke all of their lives. They're defaced by cancer of the lip or the mouth, they have health problems. Some of them are affected by secondhand smoke. Again, we're serving these people on the end, the people that need the help based on their poor choices. This legislation does focus on the youth but, if I had my way, I would desire that we mandate cessation of smoking at all ages. That's really tough, but that's the way I feel. I want quality life for all of our citizens. I do believe that we