

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

January 18, 2000 LB 750

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Committee amendments are adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We're now debating the advancement of the bill. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to tell you what environmental tobacco smoke is and give you kind of a short definition. We...some people refer to this as secondhand smoke, but just so we all know what we're talking about, this is both exhaled smoke from other smokers as well as the side stream smoke that comes from an idling cigarette or cigar or pipe. It is composed of solid particles, liquids and gases. The particles of ETS, or environmental tobacco smoke, are small, so a sizeable portion of ETS inhaled by typical adult nonsmokers reaches the lungs and becomes deposited on lung surfaces. There are 4,000 different chemical combinati...compounds in environmental tobacco smoke, and more than 50 are known carcinogens, cancer-causing agents. There are also known or suspected mutagens capable of changing the genetic structure of cells. Exposure to ETS, even for a short amount of time, can produce eye, nose, throat irritation, headaches, dizziness, nausea and coughing, and it aggravates symptoms for people with allergies and asthma. The worksheets or the fact sheets that you have from these four sources, I just for the record want to mention at least one or two things on each of these fact sheets, because I think they reflect, in the last 20 years, a lot of the research and a lot more that we know about the impact of environmental tobacco smoke. From the first one, dealing with the heart and stroke guide, it says in 1992, the American Heart Association Council on Cardiopulmonary and Critical Care concluded that environmental tobacco smoke is a major preventable cause of cardiovascular disease and death. The statement urges that environmental smoke be treated as an environmental toxin and that ways be found to protect workers and the public from this health hazard. Nonsmokers who have high blood pressure or high blood cholesterol are at an even greater risk of developing heart diseases from ETS exposure.