

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

January 18, 2000 LB 750

Thompson, there are no more lights. You're recognized to close on the advancement of LB 750 to E & R Initial.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you very much. I would request a call of the house.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question is, shall the house go under call? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The house is under call. All unexcused (sic--unauthorized) personnel please leave the floor. All unexcused senators please report to the Chamber. The house is under call. The house is under call. All unexcused senators please check in. Senator Thompson, would you wish to start your close now, or did you wish to wait?

SENATOR THOMPSON: I'll just wait a minute. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I think we could have spent a week on this bill, if we chose to, but there are many others things we want to get on to, and I think the issues are very clear. Number one, we know that environmental tobacco smoke, secondhand smoke, is harmful. And one of the things that we do as policymakers is make decisions on what ways our public should be protected and so that's a fundamental question here. And I'm not going to go back over those statistics and over that information, you have that all in front of you, from the American Lung Association, American Heart Association, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. There are many, many studies on this issue. We know it's a problem. So for some people it's coming down to, who do we accommodate? What should we do as a state? Do we accommodate the public, the children, the children with asthma? Ten percent of our children have asthma; should they be able to go to a restaurant? Do we accommodate the people with heart conditions and other things? Restaurants, as we know, are a very public place. According to the Restaurant Association, nationally, 46 percent of all adults are in restaurants at any given time during a week, and so we know that this is a public place. It's changed for me. When I was growing up, a restaurant was a once in a while special