

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

February 17, 2000 LB 1436

Legacy Foundation, who is a group that is working to promote teens working for teen tobacco prevention, have announced a grant fund to states that have passed legislation for teen prevention smoking and who have completed a survey. I'm not sure if our state has completed the survey, but it's a significant amount of money that could be added to this. The other thing that I had discussed with Senator Jensen and Senator Landis was adding the sunset on. That was fine. We had it on in the first place. Then people had...said...criticized the bill that it did not have an evaluation piece in it, so I put the evaluation piece in it thinking, well, if someone was going to evaluate it and make a recommendation we wouldn't need the sunset. That's a call that I'd be open to from all of you and, in fact, in that discussion with Senator Beutler had said that if...on Select File I would even be open to allowing the council, after the program ran for either two or three years, to make the decision, give them the authority to make the decision to let it continue or not. I think that answers a lot of concern that the Health Committee has raised in eventually that would be like a segue into the council. I'm not going to be here in a year. This is my priority bill. I would like to see it advanced and so I would be open to doing that, and then I think the council does have a hammer to decide if it's really being effective or not. Eventually, I think that's one of the main responsibilities of the council--analyzing and looking at the funds and how they're being used. This is targeted right at youth prevention. I've said that before. I also told you and my concern with the council is that they have not mentioned, in their top five priorities, they have not mentioned youth or tobacco prevention. At least this would say the Legislature sees that as a priority. It would let it run for either two or three years and then prove the case to the council and give them the right to continue the program or not. I'm willing, when...if we move this to Select File, to work with Senator Jensen and see if that would not ease some of the objections that the Health Committee may have. And so, with that, thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Hartnett on LB 1436.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body,