

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

March 16, 2000 LB 1436

an emergency clause on them. That's all the amendment does. I would just move for its adoption.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Byars, do you want to speak on the amendment to the amendment? Senator Wehrbein, do you want to speak on the amendment to the amendment? Senator Jensen, you're recognized to close. Senator Jensen waives closing. The question is the adoption of the amendment to AM2914 to LB 1436. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Question is agreed to. Debate on the adoption of AM2914? Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. I have wrestled with this issue a great deal. I'm sure all of you are very aware that I am absolutely steadfast in my desire to maintain the tobacco settlement money, the trust fund money, if you will, for public health. In the debate on this bill, at the last stage, I raised my issues about maintaining the integrity of this fund if this body were to set this precedent of repeatedly going into the trust fund, not complying with the original intent of LB 1070 of allowing the Excellence in Health Care Trust Fund Council to administer these dollars. Senator Jensen and myself have visited at great length about this issue. He is very aware and has expressed his intent publicly to this body that we are going to make it a priority next year to revisit how we will construct the Health Care and Excellence Trust Fund to preserve this integrity. So I have determined that as we look at whence these funds have come and the fact that we're using tobacco settlement money, we have a need for tobacco education, I think I can convince myself or rationalize to myself that we are appropriately using these funds somewhat given the intent of the original language in the bill to promote tobacco education and education and public health related issues. I don't think there is an issue, more than tobacco related issues, that are more important public healthwise in this state. I'm going to support this amendment and the bill, therefore reluctantly, and I...I, again, I'm absolutely...and