

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

March 29, 2000 LB 833

not a drug is a prescription drug. And keep in mind, now...or correct me, please. My understanding is that prescription drugs are, in effect, that group of drugs that are sort of protected from competition by drug supply firms that are other than veterinarians.

SENATOR DIERKS: I guess you'll have to kind of go a little bit farther with that. I don't think I understood exactly what you're saying, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Well,...

SENATOR DIERKS: I should tell you that I might have misspoken a little when I said that the firm that makes the product puts the prescription on the label. That's actually decided by Food and Drug Administration.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. And typically, once a drug is declared a prescription drug, then it remains that way? Or after a period of use it would no longer be? Or how does that work?

SENATOR DIERKS: Near as I can tell, most of the prescription items remain prescription items. They don't...I think in human medicine sometimes they do go from prescription items to over the counter. But most of the veterinary products that I have seen have not done that.

SENATOR RAIKES: Now, and the reason for making an item a prescription item, I assume, would relate to potential misuse?

SENATOR DIERKS: No, it's a prescription item based on use of...well, yeah, safety.

SENATOR RAIKES: Safety. So...

SENATOR DIERKS: That would be misuse, yeah.

SENATOR RAIKES: For example, Micotil is one we mentioned. And I think it's an antibiotic, but I think that one has something on the label that says that if you accidentally inject that into yourself, that would be like me, it would kill you. And I...and you're not sure that is a prescription drug?