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LB 283

SENATOR BRASHEAR: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...but the issue is in your bill.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: You are correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So regardless of what we do here, there will be an opportunity this afternoon, if we get to your bill, to revisit this item?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Or tomorrow, or the next day.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. That's all I needed to know, that it is available to be revisited. It may not be really redundant. What we had explained to us, even though I don't like this bill, I paid attention. This bill would take effect, and start the collection of this additional tax money sooner than would the version in Senator Brashear's bill. But all he would have to do to rectify that difference is to put an effective date in his bill that would relate to the liquor tax increase, and make that date July 1, 2003. But to make that effective on July 1, 2003, his bill would have to carry the emergency clause, which would necessitate 33 votes. So there are complexities in what is being attempted. There are roadblocks along the way. This bill, as long as it has the reduced tax on liquor, is not worthy of passage. I don't see anything in it other than that. And since that's the only thing in it, and I strongly disagree with it, I have to try to hold this up at this point, at the risk of alienating some people on the floor and alienating the liquor lobby if they think there's a chance of getting a higher tax rate. They would love to see this bill stop right here. So I have mixed emotions. If Senator Brashear's bill for some reason does not go, the liquor industry escapes being taxed, which I know will make them very happy. If, on the other hand, this bill goes on its own, it doesn't matter really what happens with Senator Brashear's bill insofar as it relates to an increased tax on liquor. So the only one to whom I think this makes a difference really is me.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.