

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

March 14, 2005

LB 563

SENATOR JENSEN: ...pleased that he brought it forward. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Kruse, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I stand in support of the Chambers amendment for reasons that have been well-documented. This particular drink is clearly an attempt to target the young market, those under 21, as well as those over. Those who are turned off by beer, they can get a different flavor. It is the flavor of distilled liquor with quite a bit of sweet thrown into it. It's clearly targeted for the young market. It is clearly going to add to our alcohol problems with the young. They are the ones who are now most likely to end their life in alcohol-related driving rather than any other threat to their life. All considerations of accident, disease and so on are dwarfed by the challenge of a young person drinking alcohol, and this is what it's targeting. The second reason is, to me, even heavier. That is, we need the money. Presently, this is taxed as distilled liquor, which it is 50 percent distilled liquor. We need money. We need the revenue that this can produce. And I hope that we will pay attention to the Chambers amendment and give it support. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Senator Chambers, I'm glad to hear that you were at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, when you were a young man. It could have been such a possibility we were there together, and I do remember those PXs. You know, and I'm not...I'm not going to stand here and argue the effects of alcohol. That's something I won't do. But I wanted to remind you that you still have to be 21 years of age before you can purchase alcohol in this state. That's not changing. I know young people have abused that. I look at the young pages up here and I can see them have a little snicker on their face, but I know what happens in colleges and universities. But what we're talking about here, what is