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March 14, 2005 LB 563

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. As I've been following this, I have mostly questions to ask. I haven't decided how to support this. I was wondering if Senator Chambers would yield to a question, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, would you yield to a question from Senator Louden?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I will.

SENATOR LOUDEN: On...is the underlying question on this bill or on your amendment is whether to classify this as spirits or as a beer? I mean, is it supposed to go as an alcoholic liquor, like whiskey and that sort of thing,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...or to be classified as a beer?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, we would just move it into that category.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay. And what's the alcohol content of this flavored malt, whatever it is, beverage? I'm not familiar with it myself and I'm wondering.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It can vary, but you can get some specifics from Senator Janssen, because even when they're talking about beer it varies from, they say, 4 to 8 percent or something, whatever it is, but there's a sliding amount. Senator Janssen keeps mentioning 6 percent total alcohol; 49 percent of that 6 percent can come from distilled alcohol in these beverages...

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yeah, I...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and qualify as beer.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay. And then, well, like wine, the percentage of that has to be, what, at least 12 percent by volume or something like that? Am I...