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

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it sends the suggestion that if you smoke and play keno at the same time, all of a sudden it's okay. I also have a problem with the exemptions down the list of suggesting that consuming alcohol and tobacco at the same time seems to be healthy. And I understand the political implications here of compromise and so forth, but what messages are we sending? I get questions about this bill, LB 480, and its impact and, you know, we want everything to be smoke-free. I understand that. That's my personal desire as well. In fact, here in Lincoln there have been some establishments that have received my business that would not have otherwise, but that's a personal issue for me. But when we start adding loopholes and exemptions down the line, we're not being honest with the public. We're not saying that there is a ban, a smoking ban, because all a restaurant has to do is add keno. I could be incorrect on that, but in my reading of the issue, all a restaurant has to do to allow smoking is to add keno. Is that what we want to encourage? I don't think it I have a bit of a problem with this self-righteous attitude of the Legislature saying this is a public health issue, but let's whittle away at what we're intending to do. I don't know. Perhaps it's because we can say we did something. I'm not sure. It's not my desire to stand in the way of a vote of this bill, a vote on this underlying bill, but I think we need to really take a close look in how honest we are being with the general public in suggesting that this is a smoking ban, because it truly is not. If you want a smoking ban then you do what the city of Lincoln did. They had the political courage to do it, perhaps; It went on the ballot. Fine. There's a local others didn't. decision...a local decision authority already on the books. Can't we live with that? Let's live with that and move on. for the smaller towns that allows quasi-restaurant-bar situation to not have to look more like a bar, more like a keno parlor, so as to allow smoking, and I think encouraging a less family-friendly environment, in their effort to maintain smoking, rather than simply accommodating smoking. People don't have to go there, but I would say a restaurant that simply accommodates smoking and does accommodate minors is a lot better situation than a restaurant that encourages more alcohol consumption and certainly the playing of keno at the same time, which happens to be a boring game anyway. But nonetheless, what are we about today? Are we about a true