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April 13, 2005 LB 480

Thompson, would you yield to a couple questions relative to AM1190?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Thompson, would you yield?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Senator, as I understand it, if a bar acquires keno they would be exempt from the provisions of the bill, as outlined under the committee amendment. Is that right?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Now the question I have is, if I'm a bar owner, I sell burgers over the lunch hour, and my clientele consists of 90-95 percent smokers, and that's just the nature of my clientele, it is not entirely my decision as a proprietor as to whether or not I get keno. Don't you have to apply to have keno at your establishment?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: I mean, it's awarded by the vendor that the county or the municipality...for example, in Omaha I believe it's Big Red Keno, they have the Big Red Keno contract, and it is ultimately a decision that rests with Big Red Keno as to whether or not you get keno at your establishment.

SENATOR THOMPSON: I'm not familiar with Douglas County on this issue.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: So that if we have an establishment, serves burgers and has a liquor license, and they wish to be exempted because an overwhelming majority of their customers and their clientele smoke, it really is not a decision that rests entirely with the proprietor. You have to get...acquire a license for keno and so forth, and then that decision, that decision, rests with the keno operator as to whether or not you get a keno operation.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Right. I mean, the current law for that same