

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

April 25, 2005 LB 70A

wearing eyeglasses prevents you from violating the part that requires you to wear eye protection. No specifications. Maybe contact lenses would be sufficient eye protection. The body voted for what it voted for. But I'm wondering if the body was aware of what it was voting for. I think it's par for the course. I think it's typical. And I'm glad that they voted just the way that they did. It shows the lack of thought, the lack of consideration and how your rear end votes for you instead of your top end. You were tired, you wanted to get out of here so you voted in a way that is not only foolish and asinine, it is silly and stupid in my humble opinion. But there will be the opportunity to see how the public reacts to this. Now Senator Smith was very cagey. I give him credit for what he did in maneuvering the body into making such a fool out of itself. I haven't been that successful and I'll tell you why I haven't been. Because I tell you in front what it is that I'm doing. He didn't. And you didn't read the amendment. You didn't ask what was being done. And I'm complicit. I told you give him his vote. You obeyed me. (Laugh) That's power. Whether you obeyed me or not, the vote was stupid. That was grade school sandbox voting. And if you voted knowing that contact lenses would satisfy the eye protection, then nothing is wrong with your vote and I'm really giving you a way out, too. There's no specification of what constitutes eye protection and that's what this body has done today. But you got two successful cloture votes. And I think that's what happens sometimes when you legislate by cloture. You think you're teaching me a lesson. But what I'm doing is using this Legislature as a laboratory to teach the entire state an object lesson about this Legislature--how little thought, how little deliberation, how little understanding goes into votes when you can wear them out. And that is responsible legislating. If you were talking to a group of students from a civics class or a group of students in a university political science class and this issue came up, how would you rationalize your vote? You didn't even know what you were voting for, but you voted that way because other things were on your mind than behaving as a responsible legislator. That's why I always say if people want to send a mule skinner to represent them, they're entitled to do that. They know what it takes to represent their interests.