

April 20, 1979

LB 497

of this body do not chose to have one. I do think that there is some interest across the state. I do think that there is going to be a continued amount of interest. I think that this is a new approach and it is a logical one. I would like to review very briefly again, for your consideration what the bill does. I hope that you will consider it and consider it seriously because I think that it does offer a new approach. First of all it is a voluntary program.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: It involves the five agencies, Games and Park, the Department of Roads, Environmental Control, Correctional Services and the Department of Labor. LB 497 does not establish a tax of any kind. I think that this is very important. Litter taxes provide no incentive to reduce litter and no matter how you look at them they are still a tax. The third important point, LB 497 establishes a litter voluntary contributions fund. LB 497, number four also provides for better enforcement of littering. In conclusion the only fiscal impact to this state as estimated by the fiscal analyst is the \$25,000 cost to change the signs along the highway that relate to the penalties for littering. I apologize for that cost. They don't know any other way to handle it, but that is the only cost. Mr. President and members of the legislature, I realize that time is short. I would be glad to answer any questions, if not I would move the bill be advanced to E & R.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh, do you wish to be recognized on the bill?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Schmit, I have some questions that I wanted to pose. On page two of the white standing committee amendment, on lines 7-11 did you chose to go guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor to put it in line with our criminal code rather than spelling it out what a misdemeanor was. It is approximately the same, is it not?

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, Senator Marsh. It increases the penalty. Now the maximum penalty is \$100. This raises the penalty for littering to a maximum of \$500.

SENATOR MARSH: All right, then my next question is related to Section 14. Say I am driving with my family down the highway and see someone in the car ahead who dumps out their car, I note the car license number, I appear as a willing