Editor's note: This is one of several upcoming stories that will focus on bills introduced in the 2013 Nebraska Legislature and how they affect Imperial area residents.

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

When the Nebraska Unicameral convened last week, state senators began introducing bills to be studied in 2013.

One of those bills, LB 132, was introduced by Sen. Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha. If passed it would create the Skin Cancer Prevention Act.

That Act would make it illegal for the owner or lessee of a tanning facility to allow a person under the age of 18 to use the tanning equipment.

Tanning equipment is defined as, but not limited to, a sunlamp, tanning booth or tanning bed.

The bill would also require owners to post warning signs in their salons explaining the dangers of overexposure to ultraviolet radiation.

LB 132 would also require the operator of a tanning salon to receive proof of age from each person before allowing them access to tanning equipment.

If an operator is found guilty of letting someone under age 18 use the tanning equipment, she or he shall be guilty of a Class V misdemeanor.

That calls for a $100 fine.

Deb Harmon is the owner of Hair Effects Unlimited in Imperial.

She said she has a lot of tanning customers who are high school students and therefore mostly under age 18.

If passed, LB 132 would definitely affect her business, Harmon said.

"Most of them (young customers) are old enough to make the decision" whether or not to tan, she declared.

At Platinum, which maintains a tanning bed, owner Dianne Way said she has some younger customers, but the majority are adults.

"I'd rather not comment either way," she said of the bill, although she added she understands what the supporters are trying to do.

Steve Grams, who owns The Farmkid Gym, said he doesn't see passage of the bill being "a big deterrent" to his business.

He said he doesn't have many clients younger than 18 any more.