BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A bill that would have made it illegal to booze it up in a moving car died quickly Tuesday when the state Senate Judiciary C Committee voted to defer action on it.

“That’s the way to kill a bill without voting for or against it,” said Lafayette Rep. Ron Gomez, who had sponsored the bill in the House, where it passed last week after 2½ hours of debate.

It would have banned open containers of beer or alcohol in a moving private vehicle. Commercial vehicles would have been exempted.

Sen. Nat Keifer’s motion to defer action came after committee members heard about 10 minutes of testimony from Gomez and one other man and asked a question or two.

“This committee has passed some of the most serious legislation against drinking while driving,” said the New Orleans senator.

“But this particular bill, I do think, goes much, much too far. I move to defer action on it.”

Nobody objected, and it was done. It all took about 15 minutes.

Gomez said he hadn’t expected much else.

“This committee didn’t even hear the open container bill before it earlier in the session. It was part of the governor’s package against drunken driving, and it was a copy of my bill.

“I think that was some indication of what was going to happen,” he said.

“I’m sorry that the Senate committee, in my estimation, didn’t act as responsibly as the House committee and the House itself.”

He said he wasn’t sure if he would bring the bill back next year.

“I’ll really have to regroup and think about it,” he said.

“If the groups interested in it ... continue their campaigns, then possibly the legislators will realize there is a general public feeling in favor of it.”