

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB490

Hearing Date: Monday February 07, 2011
Committee On: General Affairs
Introducer: Karpisek
One Liner: Change restrictions on keno

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Brasch, Coash, Karpisek, Krist, Larson, McGill
Nay:	2	Senators Bloomfield, Schumacher
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Proponents:

Sen. Russ Karpisek
Bill Harvey
Gary Krumland
Jack Cheloha

Representing:

Introducer
Big Red Keno
League of Nebraska Municipalities
City of Omaha

Opponents:

Al Riskowski
Pat Loontjer

Representing:

Nebraska Family Council
Gambling with the Good Life

Neutral:

John Adams

Representing:

International Gameco, Inc.

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Under current law, a keno operator must wait 5 minutes after the conclusion of the previous game before the next game can start. LB 490 would set the time requirement between games at 1 minute, but the local political subdivision could increase the time requirement to any time longer than 1 minute. LB 490 also eliminates the requirement for an attendant to write the keno tickets.

LB 490 is tied to LB 681 in the sense that if LB 490 were to increase keno tax revenue, then LB 681 would credit a portion of that increase to the Live Horseracing Endowment Fund that is created in LB 681. Currently, the keno tax revenue is averaging approximately \$4 million.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment creates the Live Horseracing Endowment Fund found in LB 681. Five percent of the fund may be used for administrative costs and the remainder of the fund is to be used for thoroughbred horseracing purses. The State of Nebraska would receive annually the first \$4 million of keno tax revenue and any additional revenue would be divided with 50 percent being credited to the Charitable Gaming Operations Fund and 50 percent being credited to the Live Horseracing Endowment Fund. LB 490 originally reduced the time between keno games from 5 minutes to 1 minute unless the local municipality chose a time greater than 1 minute. The committee amendment eliminates this provision, leaving the minimum time required between keno games at 5 minutes.

Testifiers for LB681:

Proponents:

Sen. Russ Karpisek, Introducer

Jay Vavricek, City of Grand Island

Jerry Fudge, Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

Tom Sage, Nebraska Racing Commission

Opponents:

Al Riskowski, Nebraska Family Council

Pat Loontjer, Gambling with the Good Life

Neutral:

None

Russ Karpisek, Chairperson