

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Will, did you wish to discuss the committee amendments further?

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I just wanted to elaborate a little bit on the point that Senator Hartnett was making. There was a Gaming Commission created several years ago to be separate and distinct from the Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue. That Gaming Commission was created with a one or two-sentence section in a bill and it's never been implemented. I think we've gone back and forth over the years debating the relative merits of having gaming control under the Department of Revenue or having it separate. That debate's largely taken place within the context of charitable gaming because that's all that's been legal in Nebraska. What has...what happened is in the early 1980s there was not a lot of control over charitable gaming. A Charitable Gaming Commission was created, it was a three-member commission. It operated for a couple years, ended up recommending that it...it recommended that it, itself, be dissolved. The Legislature came in and did that and created the Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue and that's been functioning since, although there have been proposals to establish a new separate gaming commission like the one that I referred to that we...that was passed a couple years ago and has never been implemented. The same...the same arguments can be made with respect to a lottery. Do you want to set up a separate lottery division like a lot of states have? Do you want to create a lottery division within the Department of Revenue? Those are the two options that are most often discussed. The committee amendments to LB 849 would establish that division within the Department of Revenue. That's the...that's the way that the administration wanted to go. There are persuasive arguments to be made for that. You have an apparatus there already that can deal with a lot of the things that come up. There are...it eliminates the need for a lot of duplication. The downside is that it is an existing structure of government that has interest beyond lottery and that's the reason for the independent director to allow it as great...as great an autonomy as possible while still operating as a division of the Department of Revenue. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Abboud would move to amend the