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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR JANSSEN: ...play them too much.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you Mr. Speaker, members. I rise... I think I support the bracket motion. I don't support the bill so I'll have to see what comes out here. But I rise to kind of bring a perspective on this. The petitions that are being circulated, if it was as easy as being spoken here that you just put a petition on the ballot, and it passes, man, I think I'll just quit introducing bills and just start getting petitions because it sounds to me like no matter what is out there and how bad it's written, people are going to vote for it, and those are the same people that elected you and I. I don't quite take that perspective on it. But one of the things that I think is being... or not being reported on some of these ballots is this. Is that on one of those petitions, the money that will go into that will go into your local... you know, it's called lower local taxes or something like that. What will happen is that that money will go directly into your school fund or will go in to offset property taxes so that will show up on the resources side of your state aid. So if the voters of the state of Nebraska would like to say, you bet, let's tax ourselves as a town who might have a keno operation or might have a bar that has a slot machine, let's tax ourselves. That money goes into our local fund. Then we don't get the state aid because we have the local resources that we don't need the state aid. Then we're just paying more of the local school burden on our own. I mean, those things are in these amendments... in these petitions, and if the voters aren't smart enough to understand what that will do to their tax burden locally, you know, I think we have bigger problems. And I think they're smarter than that. I don't discount that, but it just seems to me like the current debate is similar to the budget debate, and that is that we'll just continually figure out a way to get those who are paying and get them to pay more to pay for these programs, which in no doubt are justifiably good. But, you know, one of the solutions is that if we just get more people playing the lottery then we'll just solve this problem. You know, I don't know. My philosophy would be that we should probably figure out that these are