

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 28, 2003 LR 11

to vote and try to change it. I see this happening if we become too defined in what we're putting in the consti...in the...to the voters for them to vote on because we don't necessarily get it right. And if we want to change it, we have to send it back. Maybe it was bad...maybe it was bad wording, but we can't change it without the vote of the people. This takes an election. This takes time. And then there is going to be those people that don't support it either way and will come in and lobby those people, and we might not ever get it right. We need to allow the constitutional amendment to be rather broad because, let's face it, people here in the Legislature are not that liberal. We have hardly got a chance to get it to the vote of the people. You think that we're going to open this up and be broad gambling across the state of Nebraska? Chances are we won't. We'll be lucky to put it in the Indian reservations, or the two-mile jurisdiction, or even the racetracks. We can't even agree on that. Do you think we're going to agree to put in every bar in town? It's not going to happen. People want...if they want this, they're going to vote for it. We need to have the best plan out there that we can, that's going to allow us to make those decisions for them. And that's what they expect us to do, but we need the opportunity to do that. And I think this is the best constitutional amendment out there that will allow us to do that, but not limit us...limited us, whatever. Anyway, thank you, and I'll return any time back to the Chair.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President and members of the body, it seems unfair. You know, you toss and turn last night and you figure out what the solution to interdiction zones might be, and then the IPP that, and now we're doing the amendment that allows anything, anytime, anywhere, unless the Legislature lays down and dies in the face of the gambling interests to prevent it. I have not yet been persuaded that there is any reason to put this particular provision on the ballot because I'm not certain that it does a thing for us that we can't accomplish by just letting the people, who everybody tells me are going to petition something on, let them petition it on. What guidance does this afford the people in voting? What...I'm one of those