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April 10, 2003 LB 367

Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Any further discussion on the advancement of LB 367 to E & R Initial? Is there any further discussion? Seeing no discussion, Senator Janssen, you're recognized to close on advancement.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, several years ago the voters approved a lottery at the ballot box. This was approved by the people of the state of Nebraska. And it's our obligation to support and keep that viable. That is the duty that we're responsible with until it is changed, repealed, or whatever. But it is the Legislature's job to see to that these funds are kept going to where they are supposed to be going and not to see those drop off. The Compuls...that's about one of the only places, the Compulsive Gamblers Fund gets dollars from the state. So if you don't like any type of gambling, I can understand that. I can understand that, but this was something that was approved by the people of this state. We would also like to see those three areas that we do provide funds for to stay viable. And this is what we're trying to do. If we can generate a little bit more play by increasing the payouts, and I think that will probably work. It has worked in every other state that has tried the same thing where they have seen the charitable gaming and the state-operated lottery drop off. They have done this, and it has worked. So this bill will provide them with the proper tools to accomplish that purpose, and I think that it will work. If it doesn't work and we have problems, like I said, it's set in the statutes and we can come back and change that. And with that, I would appreciate your vote on this. I think that it is something important. There have been people behind the glass available from the Department of Revenue, the Charitable Gaming Division, all day to answer your questions, and I ask for your affirmative vote in passage of this very important bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. You've heard the closing on advancement of LB 367. The question before the body is, shall LB 367 be advanced to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on advancement of LB 367 to