

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

February 19, 2004 LR 14

ballot, and I think something will be passed. And I really think it is our responsibility to put something on the ballot because we need to be in control of the revenue of this. Let's look into the future a little. Say something gets on the ballot and we do not have anything on the ballot, and something gets passed. What group of people are the ones that are going to be responsible for the increase in crime, divorce rate, child abuse, or anything that comes because of this expanded gambling in the local areas because there is a possibility of having a lot of casinos in a lot of the small areas? On the initial installation of these, I am sure that they will be utilized quite a bit. But maybe as time goes on, they won't be utilized as much. But I'm looking at, as was stated in the paper and which will happen because of the term limits, you know a lot of the people won't be here. Very few will be here maybe in five to six years, in eight years, very few. And then the turnover will be great every, every other year. Are these people going to be able to handle, you know, the increase of cost that, you know, that we have to absorb because of the increase of a lot of these situations that I was talking about? These are things that are going to have to be addressed by a body that will be new, and it takes several years to learn the functions of the body just as a body. So with that, I think we need to look to the future as to, you know, what could happen. I'm sure the people want to get something on the ballot. They want to vote on something. They would like to have casino gambling closer to their own area, but is this what we really want? Is it what the people really want? Let's let them decide, but I really think, you know, one is part of eight and I'm not totally in agreement of supporting this amendment at the present time because then it really limits us to one. If we have it open to eight, the possibility of having none or one are great, but it still is a little bit open. So with that, I will give the balance of my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman, (Visitor introduced.) Senator Beutler, on the Smith amendment. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Call the question.