

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

April 10, 2006 LB 745

machine. You do not just drop the money in and pull the lever and it comes up and you lose or you win. There is the same situation that you do on these machines as you do in live racing or in simulcasting. You look at the forms, you look at the jockey placings, you look at the horses, the horses as what their winnings have been. But this historic racing is, you absolutely do not know when the race was won, what track it was run at, and what year it was run or anything like that. And if anybody in the general public can figure out between one of 50,000 to 70,000 races, then he must be a real genius because you do not know when the race was run until after your bet has been placed. They do not look like a slot machine. The race is run on that machine once your bet has been placed. There is, the committee amendment had a maximum of \$10 per race and I agree with that, although I think we could work with a smaller amount. But I really think this is just another component of horse racing. Yes, I realize that it is gambling; that it is. But we already do have gambling. We've got the horse races. We've got the live races. People have really enjoyed the races. People just don't walk up there and say here's \$20 and I bet it on horse number one. The majority of the people look at the form, look at the horses, look at the conditions, and wager that way. And I think this is just another component that we could add to the tracks that would hopefully invite people to utilize that and expand that portion of the racing and generate some revenue, generate revenue for the tracks, and what is most important is they will generate revenue for the purses for the horsemen's account. Why is generating revenue for the horsemen's account for purses that important? If there's a larger amount of money for the purses, you can have larger purses. And what do larger purses do at the tracks? They attract better horses, better races. People enjoy betting on better races because better races and better horses pay out better. And that is the thing that concerns me. The tracks across Nebraska are trying to survive. The live meets...and I can personally tell you exactly the position that a lot of the tracks are in because I'm very close to the one in Columbus. The live meets do not generate very much money for the racetrack in Columbus, but they generate a lot in the community. But that's never ever considered into it, about the amount of food for the people,...