

April 7, 1982

LB 602A

Bingo games, they don't even have to be licensed by the state or the city. Worse, the cities or villages and the counties are not able to levy any tax on the gross receipts as Senator Johnson mentioned. This revenue is needed to enforce the Bingo laws. This amendment does not make any other change in the Bingo laws that we have now. All the amendment does is to expand the definition of Bingo so...I mean definition of Bingo to cover the look-alike Bingo so those games will come under the same statutes as the Bingo. In other words, we are playing lottery now, next year it might be another game and you will have them playing 24 hours a day with no rules and regulations, not prohibiting liquor being sold, children being able to play at the games. We are merely trying to close a loophole in the statute, a loophole which we feel makes the statute less effective than it should be at this time. I urge the members of this body to give us the 30 votes necessary to put the rules and regulations on look-alike Bingo games that are being played now in the City of Omaha and Lincoln and eventually will spread through the State of Nebraska because it is profitable and later on I will give you some figures where one organization has two licenses and their gross receipts on Bingo was over \$1,333,000, that does not include lottery because they don't pay tax on lottery. They don't have to report it.

SENATOR LAMB: You have one minute, Senator.

SENATOR LABEDZ: And it does not include the pickles that are being sold. So I urge you for the benefit of those people that are operating Bingo games legally and right, that this amendment be adopted, but we need 30 votes to put it in this bill. LB 808 was a priority bill but it definitely will not be heard if we cannot stick it on LB 602. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. Speaker, I would call for the question.

SENATOR LAMB: The question has been called for, do I see five seconds? I do. State your point.

SENATOR HABERMAN: You have not had any debate against the motion.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, we did. We had Senator Dworak argue against it. You didn't debate it? Okay, in that case I will recognize Senator Wiitala to....