

much?

SENATOR HALL: That's correct. They collect over \$800,000 a year on this 4 percent bingo tax that they do nothing to, you know, earn.

SENATOR MOORE: So you're talking about the City of Omaha, half a million dollars, \$400,000?

SENATOR HALL: That's correct. They have received that, Senator Moore, as basically a gift because they were in the statutes...previously when they did provide enforcement, they earned it, but for the last four years they have done nothing with regard to enforcing it.

SENATOR MOORE: The gift is kind of like the city sales tax I pay when I go to Omaha, too, I guess.

SENATOR HALL: Well, Senator Moore, you know, it is unfortunate that we have a sales tax, I guess, but they...in this case, it is a tax that is paid by the charities and the idea behind charitable gaming is to allow charitable operations the ability to raise some funds. The tax should be there and should be imposed for the state, in my opinion. But with regard to the city, itself, we don't wipe it out completely, we just give them half a million dollars.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, just how would you propose they would make up...the City of Omaha would make...where would...I guess they have to cut their budget by a half a million dollars?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Moore, I would guess that they would cut the budget that deals with the enforcement...regulation and enforcement of the Nebraska Bingo Act by half a million dollars. And since they do no regulation and enforcement, I think it would be easy for them to basically eat that half a million dollars.

SENATOR MOORE: So you like this, as long as they don't cut the appropriation for the zoo by a half a million dollars, you're fine.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Moore, they can cut the appropriation to the zoo, I don't care where they take it out of. They shouldn't take it out of the charities.