

Clearly, they've got some difficulties, closed some doors, probably needed to keep those opportunities available and this is a way in which those people who participate in bingo create the funds themselves. It's not a general tax mechanism. If there is no heavy influx of public dollars that we're offsetting with this, as I think Senator Hall indicates and I would agree with, and if it's a way of funneling money to people who are probably really in need of that money, among them the private schools and the like, it seemed to me to be a reasonable adjustment to make so long as we were talking about an arrangement between the City of Omaha and the Revenue Committee. This was not a shared perspective from other communities. It was the perspective of the Omaha community at that moment. I supported it in committee and I intend to support it now on General File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please, followed by Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, I apologize, I looked in my file and looked at a figure and it was a figure for the total taxes collected at the municipal level so I apologize for that. Omaha collects half of that which would be 400 as opposed to...a little over 400 as opposed to over 800. So the numbers that Senator Beck and Senator Landis gave you with regard to the quarter of a million dollars that the city would approximately lose are accurate numbers. The amendment, as it is offered, is one that I think is appropriate, whether the, to be quite honest with you, the city supports it or opposes it, the City of Omaha in this case. They basically stated that they don't have any problem. They understand the need to allow these charitable organizations to be able to raise more or use more of the funds that they raise for the purposes that they initiate these types of games as opposed to having the...having them pay a tax to the city that the city says that it does not need. Now, at some future date when the city decides to change its mind, I guess I would want to raise that issue again as what's happened between now and Select File which oftentimes when they realize we're serious down here they will have a change of heart. So I do believe that it is something that because it has been on the books we have kind of let it go. It is an extremely excessive tax with regard to other types of charitable gaming as it is taxed across the country, specifically in the case of bingo. Bingo, as many of you know, is the...what's oftentimes called the loss leader for the sale of pickle cards for many of these