

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Back to the bill then, Mr. Clerk, as amended. Senator Beck, the Chair is pleased to recognize you if you would like to explain the bill then at this point.

SENATOR BECK: Again, thank you. Thank you, Chairman, and members of the Legislature, the bill is essentially...the way now that it's amended, it will remove 2 percent of bingo tax receipts and that amounts to about \$200,000 from the city revenues of Omaha, but, looking at private use of dollars, those dollars are extremely well spent. They will be put back into the city. These people are doing a tremendous job with their private dollars. They use...they have food pantries. They are involved in children's recreation. They're involved in providing recreation for senior citizens, about 20,000 some senior citizens, or more, play bingo and get a lot of recreation out of it. For the city to develop similar programs would probably cost more to the city and have the intent of raising the local property tax and none of us want to see that. I think we have spent a great deal of time on this bill through the amendment. I think there has been some misunderstanding. Again, it's a direct constituent input. It's a need. I have visited the programs and I guess some people would say, well, we don't like to see that money go back because it's based on charitable gaming. But the problem is...or the situation is that that's accepted in the state and it is enforced. We have checked on the figures. We see that the enforcement is still contained in the amount of money that would go back to the municipality of Omaha. And these people are also doing anything and everything to maintain their programs. They are using a lot of volunteers, perhaps not in the actual bingo operation but they're using volunteers and I think if you could just see what they are accomplishing with a few dollars, you would realize that this is a bill that should be passed to give them some relief. And so I would ask that we spend no more time on it, that we would pass LB 775.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you very much. Discussion on the advancement of LB 775. Senator Chambers, your light is on. Did you care to discuss it? Followed by Senators Johnson and Beck.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Beck a question or two about the bill, as amended, if I may.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Beck, please, would you respond?