

I want to congratulate and thank Senator Smith. I wasn't going to go into any detail, Senator Smith, about the tax bill I had. It is not important at this point in time. Obviously, this is a far cry from that and a serious compromise when you consider what I suggested as compared to this, but it is reasonable, and it is a good start. I appreciate her support. I would hope that the body would all support all of these amendments, and then the bill.

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

SENATOR WARNER: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do, and the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate is ceased. Senator Hall, would you like to close, please?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I'd rather...I would rather wait until we have a few more members, Senator Warner, but if I can't, I will close. Ladies and gentlemen, the issue here clearly is one of do we bring the pickle, excuse me, the bingo tax in line with (a) what happens in other states, because I have stated in the opening the next highest tax state is approximately 6 percent? Nebraska has been at ten. Do we bring it in line with the way that we tax other gaming? I think we do. The committee has advanced this portion of the amendments because of that. We have looked at it and said that, no, we don't feel that it would be appropriate to strip the entire amount of money that the cities and the counties receive. That was the introduction of the bill as I brought it to the committee. We amended it to provide that only 50 percent of that, a bill very similar to this provision, LB 775 is currently setting on Select File, and what we do with this amendment is strictly only the 2 percent reduction that would go to the local subdivisions that would be involved, either the city or the county. I would urge the adoption of this portion of the committee amendments. Mr. President, I would ask for a call of the house.