

reduce the amount of money to the General Fund. That is, when I stated in my opening, that is the impact of what this reduction in the pickle tax would have, from 13 to 10 percent of definite profit. Remember back in 1987, it was alluded to by both Senator Smith and Senator Landis and others that we had a serious problem in the area of pickles. We had a provision in our statutes that allowed, basically, what were termed then "pickle parlors". We had some folks in that operation that were less than honest and we went about through the efforts of then Senator Morehead, and subsequently Senator Smith, the General Affairs Committee, and to do with Senator Smith and General Affairs Committee of cleaning up those operations. Part of that cleanup was strengthening the oversight, the regulation, tightening up reporting requirements, tightening up those organizations or outlets, type of outlets that would be allowed to sell pickle cards. We did that, and along with that, we placed a 20 percent tax on the definite profit. So, in other words, a nickel out of every dollar that was...excuse me, 20 cents out of every dollar that was collected was paid in the form of tax, and that was done basically as a punitive measure. There was nothing hidden about the fact that we were going to take a very hard stand in this area. We were going to clean it up and see what happens after that. Well, what happened is we came in and we reduced the tax to 13 percent of definite profit because, frankly, the regulation and oversight measures that we put into place were working. The continued regulation on the Department of Revenue and, specifically, the Gaming Division was excellent. They have done a tremendous job, not only working with the charities that are out there trying to abide by the law, doing a good job, but even with the organizations that I think have stonewalled them to some extent. They have been very straightforward in their approach. They have come back to the Legislature, specifically Senator Smith and the General Affairs Committee, and asked for more regulation and oversight. As Senator Landis alluded to, I have...am more than willing to make sure that this provision, charitable gaming, the pickle card source of revenue, remains intact for those organizations, those charities who continue to do a good job, that do abide by the laws of this state. There is no love lost and no support on my behalf or those organizations that I represent that want to see this source of revenue not ruined, not dried up by a few bad apples, and I will continue to support those forms of regulation and oversight that the Gaming Division feels they need that make sense, that provide for a system of oversight, regulation, reporting, and taxation that (a) provides the revenue necessary