

people with things that maybe the government or that they can't pay for themselves. So for that reason, and I just wanted to bring those things to your attention, I am supporting the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, please, followed by Senator Nelson.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, I am not supporting the amendment. Usually, I avoid asking Senator Hall questions on issues like this because he is so straightforward and direct, but I can't avoid it today. I have got to ask him a question or two. Senator Hall, currently, what is the take that the suckers get? What percentage of the take goes to the suckers?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Chambers, if you are asking what percentage of the payout is available to those individuals who play pickle cards, I think we currently have it up to 75 percent. It...there is a range in which they have to pay, and I don't think it can fall below 65, but I will find out for you...the absolute number in just a second.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, but the house rakes off a goodly portion?

SENATOR HALL: Clearly there is a portion that goes to both the state and to the charitable organization who operates the game, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is bingo and are pickle cards gambling?

SENATOR HALL: Oh, absolutely.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are children allowed to participate in these activities?

SENATOR HALL: No. No, you have to be at least 18 years of age in order to not only play, but in the case of a bingo hall, you...many of them have the provision that you have to be 18 years of age in...even to enter.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is gambling in your opinion a positive good? A societal good that it advances the higher...the higher principles according to which people should direct their lives?