

county. So what we do now is, in 795, we don't take away the ability from one to operate inside the jurisdiction of another, but we place them both on an even footing. We give them both the same opportunity to operate within their own jurisdiction. This is point specific in that it applies only to Douglas County, because of the 300,000 limitation. They currently are under negotiations and working on a joint effort, which, when I introduced the bill, was the...one of the things that I urged them to do. It makes no sense for them to go their separate ways, they need to work together. They are doing that. Hopefully, they'll have that completed in the very near future. With the advancement of LB 795, I think the impetus is there for them to continue to work toward that end. As it's been amended, I think it's a good proposal, and I would urge the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Further discussion on the bill? Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would also urge your advancement of LB 795. As amended by the Ashford amendment and the committee amendment, I believe it's a very responsible piece of legislation. It puts, as Senator Hall pointed out, it puts the city and county on equal footing in Douglas County with respect to the question of operation of keno. I think you may hear the argument, down the line, that it's no longer needed because the city and county have worked out their differences. But given the history of relations between the two, I think it is in our best interest to pass LB 795 and make sure that, for future purposes, they are on equal footing with respect to the keno issue. I think also with the Ashford amendment now it guarantees that the citizens of either Douglas County, or the City of Omaha, or both will have the opportunity to vote should, down the line, there be a joint venture or separate venture to purchase Ak-Sar-Ben. I think that with those amendments LB 795 is in good shape. I would urge the body to advance it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Warner, on the bill.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I probably would address my questions or comments to Senator Hall, perhaps.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall, would you respond, please.