

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR WARNER: This is not particularly on the bill, this is more of a broader policy issue that is running through my mind. As I would assume this bill increases the likelihood, or at least leaves the potential likelihood of expanding some local option gambling type of operations. I assume that the state is, at some point, also going to be expanding in some form, state operated or more, at least, indirectly maybe, but state operated gambling. But my assumption is there are limited dollars available. The more we expand local options, the less likely that any statewide type of operation could be passed, because this, like all gambling, it would be expanded competition for whatever available dollars there are for gambling. Is it reasonable for me to assume that if we expand the local option that, in effect, we're lessening the likelihood of state operated gambling in some form as I think is contained in one of the bills that are somewhere in the system?

SENATOR HALL: Okay. Senator Warner, I would be happy to respond to that. The bill, in effect, doesn't...it doesn't, it doesn't expand the local option. Counties currently have the local option. They can operate a local option lottery at their discretion, after a vote of the people. What the bill does is says that a city can exclude a county from operating within their jurisdiction, within the boundaries of their county just because that happens to fall within the boundaries of that city. And that's currently where...so Douglas County could operate, they just have to operate on the fringe of Omaha, which would be approximately 25 percent of the population base, because the other 75 percent falls within the metropolitan Omaha area. The issue of whether or not it will limit dollars is one of, I don't think anyone would disagree with this statement, that there are only so many dollars out there that are going to be spent on gambling, recreation, if you will. It probably will not hurt the state type of proposal, depending on what form that takes, whether it be a ticket, or a video, or both. But it probably would have more impact on, for example, the church sponsored bingo games, the pull tabs, the pickle cards that I've also carried water for in the past. I think they will probably be more dramatically impacted by a locally instituted keno game in the Douglas County, City of Omaha area than would a state operation. But, again, that depends on what form it takes. The overall picture, you're absolutely right. There are only so