

has the amendment and the handouts to accompany it is because this is something that I'm going to be very up front with you which has not had a public hearing. This amendment deals with the critical funding problem currently being experienced by the State Racing Commission. Now those of you that are in this body now are going to remember that I've never been real supportive of the State Racing Commission and it took some convincing on their part before I finally then did see that this was necessary as far as I'm concerned. And I'm going to try to explain to you the reasons why. Senator Schellpeper, I believe, and I don't want to speak for him, but I know in our discussions he felt the same way originally as I did and we both came to feel that this is something that needs to be done in order for the commission to maintain its present regulatory functions until they can find a long-term solution to the funding problem that they are now addressing. The changes in this amendment won't fund any presently unfunded staff or any new areas of regulation. It simply allows them to continue. They have a budget shortfall. They've been in real budget straits. They showed me a lot of materials and information which really, for me, confirmed the fact that they are in need of this amendment. So the problem is that they have had decreasing revenue at a time when expenditures are increasing due to increased regulatory responsibilities. And I know that any one of you that have been around for some time recall that we have allowed the capability for simulcasting interstate and intrastate for race tracks in the State of Nebraska, along with the bills that were brought in by the industry. There was never any provision to then fund that added regulatory responsibility that the commission took on. At the same time that there has been some need for them to have hired on...and I will talk a little bit about that, some of the things that they have had to do in the past, but if you will look at your handout number 1, this information provides a summary of the commission's receipts and expenditures since 1985. And, basically, the decreasing revenue summary says the primary revenue source for commission funding comes from the 30 cent admission tax at the gate. Lower attendance at the tracks has decreased the commission's primary source of funding by \$150,000 since 1985, and it's down more than 57,000 from '89 to '90. This is a drop of 33 percent since 1985 and a drop of 16 percent since 1989. And the attendance records even for Fonner Park for this year indicate that that trend is continuing downward. Total commission revenue is also down. Total revenue from admission tax, daily license fees paid by tracks, occupational licenses, interest earned on a cash fund and minor