

operation now, and not allow new people coming into the game. I guess that's my concern, because I...I guess I've had, you know we all, based upon our experience, and I guess my experience in my community was not very good on this issue.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. I'll now recognize Senator Hall, followed by Senators Robak, Will, and Labeledz. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members. In response to Senator Hartnett's question, the increase that the amendment would allow for is a 50 percent increase. But there are a couple things you need to keep in mind. It's a gross figure. It goes from...it takes the gross amount from 100 to 150, which is 150,000, which by every indication is not a large bingo game. I know that 150,000 still sounds like a lot of money, but that's the gross receipts, that's the money that is wagered, it includes the money that is returned in prizes, and it includes the revenue that is retained as profit, if you will, the net revenue to the charity. So that's the total amount that is wagered on an annual basis. The types of games that fall in the Class II can exceed a million dollars, in terms of gross revenue that is collected. They are a much larger operation in scale, in terms of the amount of money that is brought in, that is run through, that is returned in prizes, that taxes are paid on, and that the net receipts then go to the charity. What we do here is allow for Class I's, which are very small games, I don't think...the reason they are small games, and the reason they are small games, and the reason they do what they do is because, (a), the revenues aren't there; and because they, in many cases they prefer to play the hard cards as opposed to the paper. Senator Hartnett is absolutely right in terms of the issue of the paper trail that's created through the use of disposable bingo paper. That clearly is an advantage that the department has in terms of Class II's. The difference here is that in a small game, such as this, with the Class I, you do not have the...near the volume, nor the problems in terms of following the amount of money that is washing through the system. I would allow the department, Charitable Gaming Division to correct me, if I'm wrong, but I know that the game that we're specifically talking about, Senator Labeledz and myself, at Holy Ghost, is one that has not had any problems, to my knowledge, and the department has, in effect, signed off on this. It's a policy question that the Legislature has to make. But it does not throw us into the vast majority of Class II games. You aren't