

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I probably haven't been following this as closely as I should have, but I do think that we should consider the people that play bingo. And this is really for my Mother, because she plays bingo every day of the week. And, Senator Labeledz, she loves bingo, and she and all of her friends prefer the hard cards. And I think everybody should go back to the hard cards. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise in support of the Labeledz-Hall amendment to LB 427. Just by way of a little history on this issue, over the last ten years, even more recently than that, the State of Nebraska and the Legislature basically have gone through a revolution in the way that we approach charitable gaming. We established a Charitable Gaming Commission, actually, back in the early eighties, which we scrapped after a couple of years, and at that point we established the Charitable Gaming Division within the Department of Revenue. And one of the things that that division has done is very zealously looked at laws in our state as compared to other states that allow charitable gaming, and examined the way that we treat charities, the way we monitor their activities, and the way that we essentially police what goes on in the area of legalized gambling in the State of Nebraska. And one of the things that they did along those lines was attempt to differentiate between charitable gaming that, on the one hand, is small scale, provided basically for the benefit of the participants, like your small church bingo games; and on the other hand, what is relatively high stakes charitable gaming, larger bingo games, large sale pickle card operations. One of the ways that they did that, in the area of bingo, was to create two different classes of licenses, one class intended to apply to those smaller family type bingo games, and the other intended to apply to the larger games that are more profit oriented, as it were. The way they did that was they arbitrarily picked...plucked a figure out of the air, probably not so arbitrarily, probably picked a figure that made some sense with respect to the gross receipts of an individual bingo game and said, if you're under this amount, you're a smaller game; we aren't going to regulate you quite as tightly. If you're over this amount, we consider you a large game and you're subject to more strict regulation. One of the ways they regulate more strictly in that area is by requiring the use of paper...bingo