

May 7, 1991

LB 849
LR 24

And that is that LB 849 only becomes operative when a constitutional amendment is approved. That's the key to the bill, it's the key to the two-pronged approach that I referred to earlier, during the debate on LR 24. The fact is what we've done here, as lottery proponents have said, we will put this to a vote of the people, we'll have LB 849 standing there as what the lottery would look like, so people know exactly what they are voting on, and it will not take effect until the approval of the constitutional amendment. I would urge your adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Mr. Clerk, do you have amendments on the desk?

CLERK: Madam President, I do. I have several. The first amendment to the committee amendments is by Senator Lynch. Senator, I have AM956 in front of me, page 1531 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President, members, this amendment is found in the Journal on page 1530...pardon me, on page 1531. It does actually three things. Before I explain the amendment, let me explain, in case you don't know what CHIP's is. CHIP's is the Comprehensive Health Insurance Program. It's been established in Nebraska to help those people who fall through the cracks, too young to be involved with Medicare, too much income to be able to be certified and qualified for Medicaid, and in fact has been underwritten by health insurance companies. There are some that, in fact, have been employees of organizations that have not been accepted, or have been medically underwritten out for certain conditions. Creates a serious and a terrible hardship on those poor souls that are extremely ill, but obviously need to have some kind of coverage, especially catastrophic coverage. So what this does is two or three things. It creates the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Tax Premium Fund; secondly, it provides that no individual insurer will be responsible for any CHIP's liability in excess of the insurers premium and retaliatory tax liability, which may be offset against the assessment paid into the CHIP's pool; and, in this particular case, because it involves the lottery, earmarks 10 percent of the lottery money, after pay out and prizes and operating expenses for the CHIP's fund. The reason for that is obvious, to help hold the premium costs down, because this pool, fortunately that it exists thought, does