

I think that we ought to remember that. We're here to guarantee the honesty and the integrity of the system as much as we can, not to enrich any one particular individual.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. The speaking order now is Senator Hall, Senator Will and Senator Smith. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, again, I rise to oppose the amendment but not on the basis of the concept of giving preference to individuals who are within the state as operators or as contractors, as bidders as it relates to them being either equal to, or better than superior to any bid that comes from outside the state. I think that's good policy. My only problem with the amendment is the second sentence. It's a two sentence amendment and the first one says preference shall be given to bidders and applicants for contracts based in Nebraska if the cost and benefits are equal or superior to those available from competing persons. That's a good amendment. That makes sense. I don't have any problem with that. It's the second half of the amendment that nullifies, I think, what I would call competitive bidding because you're just not going to get folks who look at this provision in statute and Senator Lynch just pointed out to me that it's in another bill and he's right. I think it was a bill that I had talked about placing the amendment on that dealt with increasing by ten-fold the license fee for these individuals. It's the second sentence that says all contracts for goods or services essentially to the operation of a lottery shall require that the person awarded the contract establish a permanent office in this state. That is a problem. That's where you're going to basically exempt or just keep anyone else out from bidding on it unless they currently have an office, establish a permanent office, established in Nebraska. By placing that language in there you, I think, go beyond just saying we endorse competitive bidding; we want to see preference given to our in state individuals. What you do is you say, we're not really going to deal with any bids that don't come from within the state because you're putting a requirement on those individuals who very likely for years have done business with the state and for some reason or another have been able to beat in state competition. If the purpose is just to keep the money in the state no matter how much it costs, well then that's what you do by not having that second sentence extracted out. I forgot we were on committee amendments, otherwise I would attempt to amend Senator Lynch's amendment.