

May 7, 1991

LB 849
LR 24

for those appropriations to take place on a case-by-case basis as they were voted on by the Legislature. It doesn't preempt anyone, not even the education folks from, I guess, getting their dipper in the bucket, the balance of that 50 percent. All it does is say that we are going to guarantee that 50 percent of it goes into the innovation fund, and we are going to put the other 50 percent in the Legislative Assistance Fund, and say that this is an appropriate vehicle for the Legislature to use to determine where those monies should go. There has been much in the way of discussion in terms of what we should do with lottery proceeds. Senator Schellpeper raises a great question, hey, folks, let's get the lottery in place first. I concur, Senator Schellpeper, I concur, but my arguments were, at least my comments were before the session was that lottery is probably going to go; the big fight is going to be over where it goes, I mean in terms of the money. Where does the money get spent? And it clearly has proved to be the case here today on LB 849, but things like Commonwealth have been talked about, things like aging, things like CHIP, all those kinds of programs are, I think, very worthy places for the money to be distributed. This amendment allows that to happen down the road, should we get a lottery in place. It clearly needs to be discussed where we are going to spend the money, and one of my arguments for introducing implementing language in terms of a bill that says this is where the money is going to go, this is how the lottery is going to be set up. When I introduced my version of LR 24 and LB 849 this year was that one of the things we constantly ran into when ballot issues were before the voters or trying to be put before the voters was what form was this lottery going to take, where is the money going to go, how is it going to be spent, who is going to have regulation and oversight? The argument then that I made was that you need to show the people just exactly where things are going to go. You need to show them what form the lottery is going to take, and you need to show where, as best you can, that the money is going to be spent. Now this doesn't spell out specifically where the 50 percent that would go into the legislative fund is to be spent, but neither does the Education Innovation Fund. It just says it is going to go somewhere in these categories. But I think that is good. I think that we should give ourselves some leeway to deal with problems as they arise. One year it may be specific one-time kinds of appropriations in the area of aging that need to be addressed. Another year it may be a critical shortfall in the CHIP's program that has to be addressed. We can use these funds, in the Legislative Assistance Fund, to deal