

one-half of the lottery proceeds, shall be put in to a fund known as the Gamblers Assistance Fund. The Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be administered by the Director of Social Services and the money shall be used to provide assistance and counseling for individuals and families experiencing difficulty as a result of the gambling losses and promote awareness of other gambling assistance programs. This particular legislation is modeled after the State of Iowa's state lottery system. In the state lottery system of Iowa, one-half of 1 percent of the gross lottery revenue is deposited into a Gamblers Assistance Fund in the Office of the State Treasurer, and I handed out the statutes from the State of Iowa that provides how this money is taken from the lottery proceeds. The reason behind the amendment is, I guess, to provide individuals with help if they become too involved in lottery, and there has been problems in other states. There is different figures that are bantered around as to what the impact of a state lottery is on a state, and some figures, such as from the National Center for Gambling in Baltimore, a national organization, say that 7 percent of their gambling problems, where they contact the center, come from individuals that are involved with the state lotteries and have problems with lotteries. And that figure that I am quoting from was in 1986, and that figure has since jumped to, in 1990, to 22 percent, and usually when you get involved in these types of gaming procedures, you have individuals that have trouble controlling themselves much the same as individuals that have trouble with alcohol. It is a vice and some people do have problems controlling these particular vices, and that is why we choose to provide funds, money from the state funds, for these types of programs and the money in this particular program would be administered by the Director of Social Services. I think it is a plus for the bill. Originally, the bill...the amendment was to provide for 1 percent. With the other amendment, instead of taking 1 percent of the total proceeds, it will be 1 percent of the funds that will be used by the Nebraska Legislature. I think it is a good step and it helps those individuals that need help, and I would urge the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the concept of what Senator Abboud is trying to do.