

manufacturer and there are several manufacturers that supply pickle card distributors in Nebraska. There aren't a whole lot. I think it's less than 10, if memory serves me correctly. And you get into the area of distributors which is the next link in the chain and you have a few more of them. And the distributors are the people that then go to organizations, go to operators, which are the bars and people that are licensed to sell pickle cards. And Senator Schmit is absolutely correct when he talks about the problems that exist in this chain. There are...there are illegal pickle cards being sold. There are illegal pickle cards being distributed. There are charities that are not being paid properly. There are individuals all along the chain, particularly as you get towards the bottom rungs, that probably are profiting illegally from some of the things that are going on. It's a major...it's a major problem in the area of charitable gaming that has been addressed over the years by the General Affairs Committee and by the Legislature. But this is...this will be a major departure from the way things work now in that the department, as I read this amendment, the Department of Revenue would contract with a single manufacturer for pickle cards to be used pursuant to the Nebraska Pickle Card Act and then the department, essentially, would usurp the role that is currently played by distributors and I, at another time, might wholeheartedly agree with this amendment. This is a concept that I have discussed with the Department of Revenue and it's a concept that the department concedes has some merit, that it would much simplify the way that the entire pickle card sales scheme in Nebraska works. However, we would be hitting the department with a brand new function here on the lottery bill at a late point in the session that they, I think, probably need to sit down and do a very careful fiscal analysis of exactly what this would entail because this is...this would be a major duty for the charitable gaming division. And I guess that I would, while not opposing the concept of this at all, have to oppose the adoption of this amendment simply because of the ramifications of the amendment and because I'm not quite sure that the state lottery bill is the correct place to address this. So I would reluctantly urge your opposition to the Schmit amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President and members of the body, I guess I also reluctantly rise to oppose it at this time because I think this is something we have looked at in the General