

bill to Select File for a specific amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker, members, I did this fairly quickly this morning and this particular amendment strikes Section 23. I did not pass out the amendment, but what it does is strikes the Section 23, which allows those under 18 to play bingo, and I realize we are kind of short this morning. I think Senator Haberman had a particular interest in this amendment, as I recall. Maybe someone can correct me so I don't intend to be pulling a fast one but I have been uncomfortable with the fact that we have expanded the allowance of minors to play bingo. And if you recall, this is what this does, allows them to be present and playing with the approval of the organization. There is suppose to be no alcohol present the way it reads in the bill, but I have been uncomfortable with the fact that it is going to expand the ability of minors to play bingo, become interested in bingo, and I think, ultimately, become more, I won't say addicted, but at least much more interested in gambling in various forms than would otherwise be necessary. Minors are, in many cases, where many of the vices have later on that become compulsive or become addictive when they are very young. If they can get through that period of time, many times it is not so injurious to them, and I decided I would try this. I haven't had a chance to talk to many of you about it, but I felt that this should be discussed a little bit more, and that is simply why I am doing this at this hour to raise the interest in this issue, realize what we are doing by expanding the ability of those under 18 to now participate or actively play bingo, and that is essentially strikes Section 23 in the amendment. I hope that it is clear what I am attempting to do and I don't have...I didn't pass it out, but that is what I am attempting to do.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I will now recognize the senators in the following order, Senator Wesely, Coordsen, Hefner, Smith, Elmer, Crosby, and Will. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise in support of the Wehrbein amendment. I guess Senator Haberman isn't here but I got a letter, maybe some of you had it, it just was handed to me this morning. It says that we would be the first state in the nation to allow juveniles to play any sort of