

CLERK: Senator, I have your AM1650 in front of me.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, as you remember, this bill was a bill that dealt with the issue of Douglas County and the City of Omaha dealing with lottery proposal. The amendment that is being passed out to you right now, 1650, when we talked about this bill on General File I offered the amendment that was up there that I just substituted because I redrafted it so that it does precisely the same thing only in a little different manner. What it does is it puts in place the what I consider to be the intent of the statutes that we currently have banning any type of player activated video machines. Through the Department of Revenue, the Charitable Gaming Division, there was an experimental, I guess, allowance for video keno machines to be used in the Ralston-LaVista area where kenos are operating. There was a determination that these machines would be allowable if there was a modification that was made to the machines as they have been placed there. It was my opinion that the statutes currently outlawed those, that there would be no ability with or without modification for those machines to be used in the operation of a keno game and that ultimately what the purpose for placing those machines was was that they would then be used in satellite operations, namely licensed retail liquor establishments. They would be placed in bars and taverns all throughout the area and they would generate a tremendous amount of revenue. Now, I'm not opposed to machines. I'm not opposed to generating a tremendous amount of revenue but I am opposed to the fact that the state isn't doing it, that the locals would be doing it. And, secondly, I don't think it's a fair interpretation of the statutes to say that these machines could be used under any circumstances because I just firmly do not believe that one can read that into the statute as it exists. But all I do here is clarify, I think, and I would be willing to listen to any arguments of the fact that this doesn't do the job because there's no pride of authorship here, it's just my way of making sure that these machines are not allowed whether modified or unmodified, so to speak, because I don't think the statute allows them. We just add a little emphasis to the statute as it currently exists to guarantee that the ban and the understanding on the ban is clear. Now I do have another amendment that's coming that's going to deal with the issue of machines. It's going to be the