

of the horse industry, but on the basis that I don't know what new direction we're going with combining two forms of gambling and in essence, supporting one form of gambling with the proceeds of another form of gambling.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Anyone else wishing to address this amendment? Seeing none, Senator Rod Johnson, would you like to close?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. First of all, I'd like to recount, because there's a lot of confusion about what the amendment does. Really this amendment affects only four counties. The amendment is drafted in such a way that if a race track happens to be located in a county in which there is a lottery game such as keno in that county, or games, and a track is located there and there are four basic thoroughbred tracks in Dakota County, Douglas, Platte and Hall Counties. The proceeds from those games would go, 2 percent of that would go toward the thoroughbred racing assistance fund which would go toward purses. This is what I consider to be a hold harmless type amendment in that we are trying to recognize that as the handle has fallen in our thoroughbred racing industry, that affects purses. And the effect is that basically we're in competition here. Keno is taking dollars away from the thoroughbred racing industry and is in competition with it. What we are trying to do is say let's take 2 percent of that gross proceeds from the game and put it into purses to help keep horse racing alive in Nebraska. It is unique. Senator Warner is correct in that. This is the first time it has been tried. Obviously it's not without controversy, but I think it's a good step. I've heard a lot of people that seemed to support it. I don't... Senator Warner, I don't have any motives to go further on down the road with grabbing money from other areas at this point, but I'd like to give it a try because I feel very strongly that what we're trying to do here is keep the thoroughbred horse racing industry alive in Nebraska and one of the ways we can do that is by improving those purses. So that's what this does. I'd move the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard Senator Rod Johnson's closing. We will now vote on the amendment as offered by Senator Rod Johnson. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on Senator Rod Johnson's amendment. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.