

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. Senator Smith, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Senator Schellpeper. I forgot to thank him because he's the one that brought this to my attention originally and even though he's voting against this, I do appreciate that. And also, Senator Schellpeper, you gave me another argument that I didn't know I had which is I forgot to mention throughout all of this conversation clearly that this amendment, if adopted, does not provide, although it is providing for a new type of game, an electronic game to be played throughout the state, it does not provide in the amendment for additional new funds for the Gaming Division to regulate and to enforce. So this...this is...that's what we're dealing with actually, in a way, here. If the Hall amendment is adopted, gambling activity definitely will expand in the state. On line activity which is the game they play now in the small...in the communities across the state, the way they play the keno game now, will decrease while this one will increase. There is no provision in this amendment otherwise for funding that additional responsibility that they're going to have. This amendment would allow for start-up costs that could be incurred and, yes, there would be some start-up costs incurred because you're changing the type of game and the Gaming Division is going to have to adjust to that. Regulation enforcement costs would be additional, it's providing for that. As far as the Gaming Division having done research on this, I hope the members of the body will listen to me because we do put down the Gaming Division in here a lot and they've done a job in a relatively new, if you want to call it, industry quota in Nebraska as far as gambling is concerned in trying to regulate and they have the responsibility for enforcement of that. But they weren't really doing research. What they did was allow...in a way they maybe were doing research, they allowed it in two communities for a month. And you know what they found out in that length of time? The play on electronic keno increased the gross proceeds wagered tremendously in those communities. That gives you an indication of what will happen if this amendment is adopted across the state. There will be a huge increase in this type of play. So what I'm saying to you is the Gaming Division has the responsibility for the enforcement of the regulation of that if we adopt this. We need to also be able to attach additional monies for responsibilities. The money passes through there, even if it