

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. The amendment is being passed out to you right now, and if you follow the, until you get that, the amendment that is on page 2625 of the Journal, it is an amendment that makes some clarifying changes and then also deals with the issue of who should spend the money and what should it be spent on. The amendment that I am dealing with is AM2236 that is being passed out on your desk right now. It amends LR 24CA by saying that the...some clarifying language on the first page which really is nothing more than boilerplate. And then on the second page, lines 3, it says "No type of lottery game shall be conducted as part of the state lottery unless the game has been approved by a majority of the members of the Legislature." So, in other words, it just protects the issue of the Legislature being the entity that determines what game will be played as a state run lottery. We then go on and add new language that is the balance of the page, virtually, and really only the balance of the amendment, and it reads like this. It says, "Because of the uncertainty of the amount of revenue to be generated from a state lottery, the revenue received from such state lottery shall be credited to a separate lottery account and shall not be credited to the General Fund." In other words, it goes into a separate account, doesn't flow over like a Cash Fund, maybe, into a General Fund. It only is a separate lottery account that is distinct to the lottery funds that would flow into it. And then say, "The Legislature may annually appropriate an amount from the lottery account for purposes of establishing, promoting, and maintaining the state lottery and for any other purposes approved by majority of the members of the Legislature. No appropriation from the lottery account shall be made in excess of the amount in the lottery account, and the Legislature may not appropriate or pledge any funds from the lottery account in any future year. Article I, Sections 16 and 25, Article III, Section 18, and Article XIII, Section 3, of this Constitution shall not limit in any way the discretion of the Legislature in appropriating money from the lottery account." What we do here, in this amendment, is place into the Constitution the parameters by which we can spend the money. What we do is we say that the Legislature is the entity that has the authority to spend the money. We are the representatives of the people, and there are 49 of us, sometimes when we vote on these things, but we are elected by the taxpayers of this state. Those individuals elect us to make policy, to decide how the budget is going to be spent, and what it is spent on, where it is spent. This should be no different. Granted, the Governor has the ability to propose a budget but it