

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Conway. We have several lights on. I don't know if they want to speak to this amendment or not. Senator Robak, did you wish to speak to this? I don't see Senator...Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker, members, I rise to oppose Senator Conway's amendment. This is the Athletic Commission amendment, correct, Senator Conway...

SENATOR CONWAY: Right.

SENATOR MOORE: ...before I get lost in the shuffle here. As you may remember, the Appropriations Committee introduced a bill to eliminate the Athletic Commission in the State of Nebraska for the reason the Athletic Commission no longer has adequate revenue coming in to cash fund that agency. And unlike other years where possibly the committee could have gutted a bill and brought it to the floor, or introduced...I mean we thought it was proper to have a hearing. When we introduced the bill, the Legislature was gracious enough to give us a suspension of the rules to do that. We sent it to the Government Committee hearing, and the Government Committee killed the bill. And there is nothing wrong with that. Now they're rightfully coming in and saying, if you're going to kill the bill, they're coming in making the case why we should appropriate \$28,000 in the second year of the biennium to fund the Athletic Commission. I guess my general attitude on that is that if historically something has been cash funded, if it no longer could generate adequate revenue, why should the taxpayers be asked to subsidize that; if it can't fund itself on its own, I think we ought to seriously look at doing away with it. I think there are other states, certainly, that have done that with it. There's nothing against the Athletic Commission, I think it's a fine organization, but the question is, do you want to subsidize it with...continue to subsidize it with taxpayer funds on into the future? And as is...unfortunately, as boxing and wrestling continue to possibly decline, a General Fund appropriation is going to have to increase. And so for that purpose I rise to oppose the amendment. I think the better course would be...have been to advance the bill, eliminate the agency, transfer it either to the local subdivisions, or totally do away with the state regulations altogether. But we chose not to do that. The committee chose to come here and ask for the money, and I oppose that. Probably a bigger problem, though, is what...the good