

CLERK: Madam President, the first amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Schellpeper. Senator, your amendment is on page 1175 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President, and members, this amendment will make some technical changes. It will put into...the present license fees are charged by the Racing Commission into the statute. Presently, the Racing Commission can raise the fees whenever they want to without coming to the committee. And all other state agencies have to come to a committee that they are under to raise any fees. And this will also make the Racing Commission...they would have to come to the General Affairs Committee in order to raise any fees. This past year they raised several fees and it did put a hardship on some horse people and I think rather than to let the Racing Commission do that, we're much better off by having them be like all other state agencies, have them come to the Legislature and be approved. The second part of the amendment would settle a situation where the Attorney General has ruled that you need to include simulcast and live racing into the same formula and this amendment will make it clear that only live racing will be part of the handle, which is the way that they have been operating for several years. Even though simulcasting is getting very popular lately, this amendment will state that it would just put it into statute that it will include only live handle into this...the Small Track Fund. And I think it's something that the racetracks have been doing. In fact, I know they have been doing it. So we're not trying to do anything different. All we're attempting to do is to make it so that the tracks know where they're at and it will be the actual that is bet and not what is bet at the simulcast outlets. So with these two technical amendments is what this amendment is. Thank you. I would be glad to answer any questions.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Before I proceed, I would like to call the senators' attention to the area under the north balcony. A special visitor to the Legislature today is former State Senator Lorraine Langford of Kearney. Senator Langford, would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. Senator Will, followed by Senator Abboud.