

General File that Senator Landis made that this had not been a bill, that it'd not had a hearing. That's why the amendment was withdrawn. That's why the issue was taken to the Revenue Committee. That's why myself, Senator Hall, Senator Landis spent a lot of time sitting down and going over the financial status of Ak-Sar-Ben and of racing in general in Nebraska. I think it's had a thorough working over among some senators that have been very interested in it and at this point we're coming back with an amendment a second time. It's something that's been discussed, obviously fairly thoroughly on General File and now it's getting another very good discussion on Select File, so I think it is an issue that's been raised; that, even though it did not come in as a bill, it has had a good deal of discussion, both on the floor and off, and I don't think it's breaking...it's breaking faith with anyone to be offering this amendment at this time. The other thing I think it's important to note is that in this entire discussion Ak-Sar-Ben keeps getting mentioned and I think that some people are talking about the track when they're talking about Ak-Sar-Ben, some people are talking about a racing operation, other people are talking about the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben. They're talking about the organization in Omaha that currently owns the track. And I think it's important, if you want to...if you want to call this a break for somebody, it's absolutely not a break for Ak-Sar-Ben, the entity that currently owns the track. As drafted, this amendment affects only...it affects the track only if it's purchased by Douglas County, only if RaceCo (phonetic) owns the track. If Ak-Sar-Ben continues to own the track, the tax rate continues to phase-in at the higher rate, so we're absolutely not giving a break to Ak-Sar-Ben. If you're thinking about giving a break to people who you probably view as being very rich and powerful already, that is absolutely not what this amendment does. This amendment gives a frozen tax rate at the current level only if the track is purchased by the public entity, nonprofit RaceCo (phonetic), which is an extension of Douglas County. That's the only time this amendment would have any effect at all. That was part of the...that's part of the difference in the drafting since General File. That's something that we wanted to make sure was in there, wanted to make sure that this would apply only if the racetrack is being purchased by Douglas County and the reasoning, again, is for the sale of the bonds. This is a key amendment on this bill. As far as this bill, the original origin of this bill, lest we forget, is to allow Douglas County to hire a private operator to operate the track so that they can have a chance of operating the track