

Legislature is sympathetic to the concerns of the industry, that the Legislature indeed does understand that the industry needs certain things, especially in the face of the expansion of other gaming activities. We have recently opened keno in Nebraska that cities do. We're the only state in the nation that allows cities to operate keno. Clearly that encroaches upon racing. I think with 718 we provide the racing industry with a vehicle that they can use, that they can use to recapture some of perhaps that lost handle. I think without a doubt LB 718 is something that we need to do in Nebraska notwithstanding the Governor's concerns. And I understand the Governor's concerns. The Governor is concerned that perhaps the regulatory mechanism is not there. He's been talking to people on the Racing Commission, to Racing Commission staff and frankly we have every piece of regulatory machinery in 718 that you have when you pass any bill. We instruct the Racing Commission to pass rules and regulations to regulate this part of the industry. We have the remote facilities connected on line to the main racing facility. There's virtually no chance for error. Clearly you can't avoid every potential situation where there would be a problem. But I'm satisfied that the mechanism that we have in LB 718 is a good one, that it's a very controlled expansion of gaming activity, that it's not a significant shift in what we allow right now, that it is indeed something that we need to do to demonstrate our commitment to racing in Nebraska. With that, I would welcome debate on this issue and I would urge you to override the Governor's veto. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I rise to support Senator Will in the motion to override the veto of LB 718. The Governor's reasons for overriding the proposal are this. He says in his letter, I have concerns that LB 718 and LB 718A do not provide the assurances of adequate regulation and enforcement of off-track wagering that would be necessary for me to sign these bills. Establishing the necessary safeguards must involve both industry representatives and those who regulate the industry. Ladies and gentlemen, the industry and those who regulate the industry were intimately involved in the concept, the construction and the final verbiage that's in LB 718. If you look through the bill, it is littered with provisions about safeguards. It is littered with oversight and regulation on the part of the Racing Commission. And you don't have to look far in the bill, go very close to the front of it, and I don't have