

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. The motion that the Clerk has on the desk is one that is found at the rule that he stated, Rule 6, Section 3 (f), and it is a provision in our rules. As you all know, on General File a bill can be killed with a simple majority. It does not, simple majority of those voting, so it doesn't matter whether there is 49 members present, if the vote were taken and it was 3 to 2, the bill would be dead. Under this provision in our rules it says that if the motion is filed prior to the bill being read on General File, then it takes 25 votes to indefinitely postpone the measure. Why would I do that? It's not because I'm interested in killing the bill, but there are...because the exact opposite is true. What I want to see is the bill become law in some form or fashion because I really believe that it's something that we need to do in the State of Nebraska. Now there are people who have differing opinions, here on the floor, outside in the public, some out in the balcony. I think there's a number of people who were in your offices and that who might be in the balcony who support the measure, but the question is, do we expand gambling in Nebraska? And there's really, in my opinion, only four questions you need to ask yourself in order to make that decision. The first one is, do we expand gambling? And that's why this motion is before us. If we're going to deal with this subject matter which is, I guess, controversial, then let's take it up right now and that's why the motion is there, to jump in front of the committee amendments and allow for us to make a decision on whether we think this issue is important enough to continue with. It is, I mean based on the handout that the Speaker gave us today, the fact that on our agenda we're in the sixty-seventh day, this topic is going to take some time. It's a priority bill but it's still going to take some time. I would rather find out today right now if the votes are there to address this issue because it's going to have to be addressed in probably a very deliberate manner, but I need to tell you that the sides are coming together and I believe at a minimum the parties involved are pretty close to having some kind of agreement on what form the bill ought to take before it becomes the Legislature's to deal with. Regardless of that, I think people need to have an opportunity to speak to this issue and talk about whether or not they feel there is a need in Nebraska to expand gaming. I happen to believe there is and I'm going to vote against this motion, but I want it up there and I want people to have an opportunity to talk to it and I want them