

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Madam Chairman and members of the body, Senator Schellpeper alluded to this just a second ago, and we went over this with him and Senator Hartnett, and this is with their approval. This is so we can include Atokad Park in South Sioux City as part of this bill. They are not...they do not abut the City of South Sioux City but within their two-mile jurisdiction. So all this amendment is for is to...so that they can become a part of this...this legislation. So I'd appreciate your approval.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schellpeper, to speak to the Engel amendment.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman and members. I rise to support the Engel amendment. This amendment only deals with Atokad racetrack. It would allow all five racetracks in the state then to have keno, and if we are not going to expand to any other gambling this year, which it seems we are not going to, I think it's only right that we let all five racetracks have keno, and this would allow them to do that. This bill is a General Affairs bill that came to us from the Revenue Committee...or the Revenue people and it's, basically, their annual clean-up bill, but I think it would be a good amendment now so that all five racetracks would be equal. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, and members. Again, I understand that as my seatmate said, the cat is out of the bag. I raise the issue regarding Columbus, as it relates to the horsemen and the other issues, that you are talking about expanding gambling in the horse racing facilities and you then require that the horsemen, the horse folks compete against another form of gambling that is actually in their own house, and we do that, and I am not rising to oppose Senator Engel's amendment. I will support it because I supported the underlying amendment that impacted Columbus, but I rise to raise that issue because I guess the one question I am going to ask next year is, what happens when the horses no longer run at those facilities? Do the...does the keno cease to exist at that point in time? If, in other words, if the catalyst for their ability to locate at those facilities is because they happen to also have horses