

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: So whether or not you agree with expansion of gambling or not, no senator ever got into any trouble by telling people that we're going to let you vote on it. I think that's the best way to answer anybody that calls you is say, I'm going to vote to put it on the ballot, you decide. Next year we'll come back and we'll decide if we're going to expand. We don't have to expand this year, nothing in here is expanding gambling. All we're saying is we're going to put it to a vote of the people, as the Attorney General stated, and then we'll come back next year, if you say yes. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I completely concur with Senator Schellpeper's remarks. But for now I'd like to just turn our attention to the amendment at hand. I appreciate Senator Beutler's comments with respect to the exact meaning of the language in the statute, and I think it probably...or in the amendment. And I think it would be useful to get some interpretations into the record. Certainly, I think that the language that the...the current gaming that is in effect will continue to be regulated in the manner in which, and by the same entity as they are regulated on the effective date of this amendment, until January 1, 2001, is important to understand. And my interpretation would be that the key is that the same entity would be regulating those types of gaming. The current statutory schemes give general power, especially in the area of keno, to cities to regulate with some oversight by the Department of Revenue. And I think what the amendment would contemplate, and, Senator Schellpeper, correct me if I'm wrong, I think what the amendment would contemplate is that the same kind of mix of regulating entities would continue in effect until the year 2001, and that at that point they could fall under the Gaming Commission. We could create a new commission that would regulate them, whatever the Legislature would so desire. I do think it's important again to note for the record that what this amendment would not preclude is making changes in the statutory scheme that would be in response to developments in keno, in bingo that were occurring, that the Legislature would need to respond to. I don't anticipate that this amendment would preclude that at all. I think that's important for me to note for the record and for the body to understand