

voting on and what should be approved. At that point, as Senator Schellpeper has pointed out, there...the simple passage of the constitutional amendment by the voters would not establish any expanding gaming at all without the Legislature revisiting the issue, statutorily establishing the types of gaming that would be allowed, the locations, the numbers of...the numbers and types of devices or types of gaming. So this would simply be placing before the voters the issue of expanded gambling and allowing them to decide for the state...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR WILL: ...if this is something that we would like to get into. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I'm the...I happen to be the Commander of a Legion post in south Omaha. And ever since we've had expanded...or Iowa has expanded their gambling our net income doesn't even come close to our depreciation right now. At this rate, at this rate we're going to be in trouble. And I can't imagine that this is a unique situation. For every Eagles Club, or VFW, or Legion post, or Knights of Columbus hall that's dependent upon pickles to help augment their budgets, this is not even talking about the fact that we're losing, you know, the frequency of visiting the club, home. The post home is going down because people are going across the river. But I do have a concern, and I'd like to, maybe if Senator Schellpeper could answer this. If we were wanting, and let's say the...an American Legion post that has been negatively impacted by the expansion of gambling in other states, if they wanted to put four or five video slot machines right next to the pull-tab machines, right next to everything else that people have, if they just wanted to put four or five machines to keep their members coming to the post, to help the post pay their bills and keep going, could they do that right now under Nebraska law, or do we need a constitutional change?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: According to the Attorney General, Senator, we cannot expand to any electronic or video machines without a vote of the people. I know there's people that feel differently, but you'd have to go through the court system to challenge that. And I think he's probably right. I think that