

April 2, 1996

LB 1057, 1277

license holder in the form of reduction of fees charged by the Department of Revenue. This fee money is used by the Department of Revenue to monitor charitable gaming, as mentioned in the hearing on LB 1057, will not suffer adversely if forced this small reduction of fees. This amendment would help charitable gaming license holders who are seeing their gaming revenues decline in this day and age of increased competition. The profits of gaming, charitable gaming help people in communities, and we should now do what we can to help provide some relief. I urge you adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, the ease with which these bills have moved is going to come to an end now because I'm opposed to what Senator Hartnett is doing. I have never been sympathetic toward what they call charitable gaming, and it goes to this idea of these groups making all these professions about the good that they are doing, the help that they are to society, yet they are doing it through one of the most nefarious activities that this society faces, and that's gambling. It has always boggled my mind how these churches can endorse and profit from gambling, these schools want to make money from gambling. Then they will turn around and say gambling activities should not be participated in by children. Well, it seems to me anything that is appropriate for the church to do ought to be appropriate for children to do. So I'd like to ask Senator Hartnett a question or two on this.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hartnett, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Hartnett, would this include the gambling carried on by churches?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do these, when the churches have these gambling activities, are children allowed to participate?

SENATOR HARTNETT: I don't think so. I think there is a limit on that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why don't they let children participate, since it is a church activity?