

April 9, 1996

LB 1255  
LR 43

\$167,000. And I'm not...and I'm being very up-front with this, but 10 percent of our pickle cards in the state of Nebraska were sold at bingo occasions, which amounted to \$4.3 million. The state would lose \$430,000 in pickle tax revenue in addition to the bingo tax, bingo sales tax, and other pickle sales taxes. All of those will lose if the bingo game ceases to exist. In my district, we've had bingo games collapse in the past year, and more and more throughout the state are on thin water...or on thin ice. The 8 percent tax on bingo games is placed on the total gross receipts of the game, not the profits of the game, and that must be understood. As a result, a bingo game can lose money due to the size and the nature of the game. Again, the 8 percent tax is placed on the total gross receipts of the game, not on the profits. I would encourage the body to support the motion to return to Select File. I think this is needed. I think the charities need it. We've done nothing this session to help the charitable gaming. We're going to be in stiffer, stiffer competition from our bordering states. We've...the body made a very clear decision on LR 43CA about their involvement with gaming, so let's at least let our own Nebraska charitable gaming ventures compete by supporting this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Wesely followed by Senators Fisher, Hillman and Maurstad.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Let me first congratulate Senator Hilgert. I admire his tenacity and I'm glad that he's working hard for his district. On the other hand, I rise in opposition to his amendment. I understand what he and Senator Will are trying to do, and Senator Preister. I know, is listed on this as well. We did reject this amendment previously when it was considered. And I understand the argument, and obviously it's appealing to try and get more money back to the charities involved. Bingo, of the different gambling activities, is probably the least offensive of the different forms...less so than pickles or the casinos or the state lottery or any of the other...keno, or the other games that are out there. So it is appealing to look at trying to provide more assistance to bingo. The problem is that where he wants to equalize by lowering the bingo tax down to the other taxes, I would prefer raising the other taxes on gambling up to bingo. I don't think this is the equalization approach that really we ought to be taking. That way we'd have a level