

tax a certain type of charitable gaming at a much higher level than types of gaming that go to support other entities, in particular the cities that are the ones that are the...outside of individuals that are simply opposed to different types of gaming, the cities are the primary ones that oppose the amendment that Senator Hilgert and I have introduced. And they need to understand in the end that the reason that the cities initially were given a tax on bingo was because they were given responsibility for regulatory activities and functions. That's simply not the case anymore. This is a holdover and at some point I believe that the legislative body will see fit to repeal that tax. The one thing that I would again emphasize is that I don't want the bingo tax to take down LB 1255. It's worthy of discussion. Senator Hilgert and I both knew that, and we came to the conclusion that it needed to be introduced again because I think on any given day we probably have a pretty good shot at getting a reduction in the bingo tax adopted. But in light of the fact that this...that this probably would jeopardize LB 1255, given Senator Chambers' remarks...and I appreciate Senator Chambers being honest...being honest about that, and I think probably this is not the time or place, but I certainly...I think that this is an issue that deserves serious consideration by the Legislature, although I understand the ramifications of time and what is occurring on the fifty-seventh day. But I would commend Senator Hilgert for pursuing this issue. It's something that I continue to...I will continue to pursue, Senator Hilgert, as I have every year that I've been in the Legislature. And I commend you for bringing this amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, I want to indicate there's certainly nothing wrong with Senator Hilgert bringing this issue to us at this point in time. I was one of the supporters when we addressed this issue earlier in the session. However, at this point in time, I cannot continue that position. If I could ask Senator Hilgert a question, a quick question...

SENATOR HILGERT: Sure.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I notice that this is a General Affairs Committee priority bill, and I understand what Senator Will just