

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 14, 1999 LB 791

compensate the retailers to 6 percent. I believe that if you don't help, now it's not only in grocery stores, they're everywhere, we don't help those people who are responsible for maintaining the areas around where the tickets are sold, maintaining and paying the person who is selling them, and if the sales keep declining as they have, you're going to see more of a decline because those retail establishments are not going to keep losing revenue from them. If their sales go down, their...the gross amount goes down, simple as that. Anybody that's been in business knows that. When your gross goes down, your profits go down. So that there's going to be a time when the retailers are going to say, that's it. I've had enough of it, take them out of here. And that is going to happen if the decline continues, and when that happens, then lookout. Then the floor will fall out of it and there will be no...there will be no other...no more Educational Innovation Fund. There won't be any more environmental issues that will receive benefits. It'll all be gone. So are they going to come back then and say, all right, Legislature, we need, they'll be in the Education Committee asking for...for to keep those grants for the schools up, we've become accustomed to these, they've done so many things for us. I've got a list here somewhere of all the schools in the state that have...that have received grants and it would amaze you how many dollars worth there are there. So the state's portion of this, what we're doing with the...with the proceeds that's coming back and going out to the schools, I like to use the schools because I understand them a little bit better than I do the environmental issues. Senator Schrock understands environmental issues more than I do. Senator Beutler understands them more than I do. But that, can you see what's going to happen? And it is 1 percent. This is 1, at least 6 percent. I don't think that is...that is too much to compensate the retailers who are doing 90 percent of the work for the lottery, for a 5 percent at the present time. With that, if we don't do something here now, you're going to see this...the proceeds from this decline, decline, decline, and then the people will start moving, as Senator Schrock said, start moving across the border. They'll find something. If they're going to gamble, they're going to gamble, whether it's in a pool hall or a back alley somewhere. Doesn't make any difference, people are going to gamble, and if they're going to spend those gambling dollars, let them spend them...let them