

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

April 14, 1999 LB 791

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Nothing, there wouldn't be a state lottery. The constitution does not compel us to pass laws. The only time a provision of the constitution automatically takes effect is if it's one called a self-executing provision in the constitution. And had that been self-executing, we would not have had to pass a law.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Robak, you are next in line to speak. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I voted this out of committee. As a matter of fact, this was my...I had an amendment that was this identical bill about four years ago. However, nobody liked it. It did not get anywhere at that time. It didn't get out of committee. But I did have this identical amendment. So I did this time vote it out of committee and I think that it does not hurt...this lottery, this type of lottery is not hurting anybody. If these people want to spend a dollar on a scratch ticket, I mean maybe they can't afford a 300 dollar a night dinner for four people at a restaurant or maybe they can't afford to join the country club or play golf or they are at the age where they don't want to anymore, and this is what they want to do for entertainment. I see nothing wrong with this type of entertainment, this...it's relatively inexpensive. And I believe Senator Jensen, not Janssen, Senator Jensen made the statement that this is hurting the poor people, or we have to take care of the poor people, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. Well, we've never taken care of them too much before this, so I find that very, very arrogantly wrong to make you think that the poor people can't manage their own money. I think they can manage it. They have to manage it. They don't have very much money, but if they want to spend a dollar for a scratch-off ticket instead of eating out at some great restaurant or joining a fabulous country club that they can't afford to do, I see nothing wrong with that whatsoever. I supported this in committee. I will support it on the floor. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Beutler,