

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

February 8, 2000 LB 659, 1258

go on to say in closing, briefly, this legislation is crucial to the economic survival of the New Holland plant and the economic survival of Grand Island. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Question is the advancement of LB 1258 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 1258.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The bill is advanced. Mr. Clerk, LB 659.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 659, a bill by Senator Lynch. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 20, referred to General Affairs, advanced to General File, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Lynch, recognized to open.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, LB 659 is a charitable gaming bill. The dollars wagered on charitable gaming, in particular pickle cards and bingo games, peaked in about 1993 and '94, and then started to decline in the succeeding years as a result of the opening of the casino gambling at the dog track in Council Bluffs, and then of course the "floatin'" gambling casinos. Passing around to you now are some charts that show the decrease in charitable gaming from when it first started, to when it peaked, to where we're at right now. We estimate that there has been a terrible decline, 10 percent or more a year. Of course, all of this has an effect on what the organizations and agencies can do to help without having tax dollars help them do what their profits from this kind of...this kind of charitable gaming provides for all our citizens. LB 659 and technology can and has played an important role in reversing the decline in charitable gaming. The type of device does not dispense a traditional paper card that we see in most places that have pickles but rather displays electronically images of the card on the video screen. And after the player has inserted money into the device, the player electronically opens the pickle card by touching the screen, et cetera. The device displays the winning and losing results and displays a paper receipt of the results. The paper would then be taken to