

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Smith, just a few questions, if I may, because I'm not...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Smith, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I wasn't aware that this amendment was coming up today, so I need to understand better what's happening. First of all, what is going into the...the gamblers assistance program right now? Is it the one percent?

SENATOR SMITH: That is correct, and I would add that that has been decreasing as the revenues of the lottery has decreased, while the obvious need and the obvious compulsive gambling needs have gone up.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And what...how much is that one percent currently?

SENATOR SMITH: It's around \$400,000.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and it's decreased over time from what amount?

SENATOR SMITH: I believe it was around \$550,000.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and what...is the State Lottery Fund the only gambling operation, so to speak, that contributes to the compulsive gamblers assistance program?

SENATOR SMITH: Currently, that is the case, other than private funds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Other than private funds. The charitable gaming organizations, they don't contribute to it?

SENATOR SMITH: Currently, that would be the case. The '97 act of the Legislature would seek to change that, obviously, but those funds are simply not there.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I...what...what do you mean the funds simply aren't there? I'm sorry.