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FLOOR DEBATE

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introduced as a petition. Not a chance, not a chance. What's going to happen is is that we're going to try and find a way to get 30 votes on this proposal to pass the Legislature to get it on the ballot for 2004. Then the outside interest group is going to look around and say, well, actually, we don't get the money that we would like to see, so we're still going to run our petition. So we'll give people an option. I don't see that if we put LR 14CA on the ballot it will prohibit a petition. I am not sure about LR 11CA because that is pretty much wide open and anybody could do whatever they want, if they can twist 25 of our arms in the future to do that. Second question is where does the money go? One of the comments that we heard in committee was we need to use this money for tax relief. We need to use this money for a project. We need to use this money. Whatever you are going to use this money for, my concern is this, is that we're going to set up a system to where we are going to become reliant upon this program. This money will never create one dollar of tax relief to the citizens of the state of Nebraska. In fact, I was looking through one of the reports here, and according to current estimates by the gambling groups or the compulsive gambling groups in the state that monitor these costs, it's about \$212 million already, the cost of gambling for the state of Nebraska, for the citizens. That's about 41,000 people. That's already in the state. Now that might be due to the part of some of the casinos next to us but, again, we're going to increase that number as well and create an additional cost there. So the idea that we're bringing in more money isn't necessarily just a hold constant of some of those other costs that go along with this. The issue of whether or not the people will vote for either one of these issues, I'm going to say no. I'm going to go out on a limb and I'm going to say I've heard the cries, but I'm still saying that the people of the state of Nebraska are going to look at these proposals, whatever we think we can put on the ballot as a body, and they are still going to say no. And the petition might come up again, and I think they're going to say no even more overwhelming to that, because they are going to look at that as a group of individuals if it's similar...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.