

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

February 26, 2003 LR 14

of some kind. Secondly, I would like to address something that Senator Erdman said and, Senator Erdman, the limitation on casinos regarding the Indian reservations in this bill would be voluntary on their part. And if they did it voluntarily, then we would provide them some remunerations. So I believe that, yes, that would not be in conflict with IGRA. And if we didn't do this bill but we did any other bill in which the tribes were not mentioned, yes, they would be then allowed to compact with the state because that would open up Class III gaming. And once Class III gaming is opened up, they have the right to ask the state to compact with them in good faith. And let me refresh everybody's memory in here, back in 1993, this body passed a bill which said to the Governor, you will compact with the four tribes of Nebraska. Well, the Governor's legal staff advised him that we couldn't do that, we had to pass a constitutional amendment first. So my belief is that we have to have a constitutional amendment, and that we have to have Class III gaming in the state before the tribes can compact with the state. Now there are other kinds of arguments out there that they have the sovereignty, they should be able to do what they will, but I don't think that's ever worked too well in any other state, and that's part of the purpose of IGRA, the national Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. So I think that we could do that. Now I'd like to call your attention to the survey that I just had passed out, and some of you saw this this summer, because while we were in session this summer, we shared this with you. But I want to refresh your memories again about what this survey says, and it indicates to everybody, and this is a good survey. If you look at the sample characteristics, they had 1,000 respondents, about 300 and some in each congressional district. They had a party affiliation split, 49 percent Republicans, 37 percent Democrats,...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...and 14 percent independents, and then they also have it broken down about a third, a third, a third by congressional districts, and then about an even split, not quite, between male and female, but there are more females in Nebraska than there are males. And if you look at the next page after that where it talks about the characteristics of the