

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

February 27, 2003 LR 14

going to come from New York City, and so forth, to come to Nebraska to gamble? You know, there's too many other facilities. So what you're going to do, you're going to just take it out of our economy. You know, Deloitte Touche did a study here I think two or three years ago for some of the surrounding states. And what they came out of their study, for every dollar you reap, there's two dollars go out--one in social cost, and one in economic cost. Because the money that's spent from within you're taking away from their spending it someplace else, plus, like I say, the social cost of bankruptcies, et cetera. And I'm not trying to do this from a moral standpoint, just a practical standpoint. Because what it costs people of the state of Nebraska it must cost us. Another thing, as far as the...I've always said it's a very, very poor way to try to fund government. Because it's here today, gone tomorrow. South Dakota, where they've had gambling for years, but...and every once...every election cycle they have a referendum to get rid of it. It's almost lost...it's almost been abolished different times. And they are depending on that in their general budget. And if they lose that...of course, one nice thing about that, if they'd do it, if they would, we'd be more competitive, because they'd have to have a sales...an income tax up there. But the thing is, it isn't a panacea. It does not solve anything. Our surrounding states, if you look at the chart that was sent out this morning, the surrounding states who have gambling are having as big or bigger financial problems than we are. So does that solve anything? I'd say no. Even the state of Nevada, which has been where gambling really was born in this country, the casinos and so forth...and that is a destination, there's no question about that, it is a destination...they have a big...the biggest deficit they've ever had in their lives. And they depend on gambling revenue. So again, this is not, as far as I'm concerned, this is definitely not the answer. Another question I have...and I haven't studied the bill as much as some of you have, but the thing is, how much money is set aside to take care of these social issues? In the past, it's been a very, very small amount. And we know, if you talk to the counselors and talk to people in that business, how many people are affected by this particular problem, and that's a minimal amount. So I don't think we're interested in taking care of those people who are addicted. And it is an addiction.