

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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second. That's not the way that I envision it. There was a number of individuals that got together and said, this is what we would like to see, this is our assumption, this is what we envision gambling with casinos in Nebraska looking like. It's great. You know, put out whatever you like. I think this has as many problems as any other proposal. But you see, the goal is, is that you've still got to figure out a way how you can get the people of Nebraska to envision this and to vote yes for it. So I think what Senator Schimek said was right. That's not how I envision it. Because you got to also realize, is that once you put this on the ballot, and if for some reason I'm wrong and the people vote for it, then we have to come back to the Legislature, and it doesn't matter what we envision, those of us that put this on the ballot, because all those people that are standing behind the glass out there have a different vision about what gambling should look like in Nebraska. And they're going to push the limit as much as they possibly can, and create all these little things that we're trying to protect ourselves from. They're going to find a way to do it. One of the lobbyists here says, you show me a law, I'll show you a way around it. This is going to be another one of those issues. Granted, it's going to be a constitutional issue. But that's nothing new to the gambling issue. There's all kinds of constitutional challenges, and there has been in the past. I think the value of this process, to me, is immeasurable, because of this. This is going to be the only debate that you will ever hear between now and...if, for some reason there would be 30 votes on Final Reading and this goes on the ballot, this will be the only debate that we will have in the state of Nebraska in a setting to have an honest discussion about casinos and the effects of them in the state of Nebraska. If this goes to the ballot, it is going to be unbelievable what we see in the state of Nebraska. There won't be a discussion. There won't be a debate. There won't be any of that. And so I kind of feel this idea here that we need to rush this through and get it on the ballot and then come back next year and try and clean up some things and try and put out an enabling legislation or other things to give people some direction. But if this is the only debate that we're going to have on gambling in the state of Nebraska as far as it relates to casinos, what's the hurry? What's the hurry? Anyone? There is none. And that's the