

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

March 4, 2003 LR 11

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: what's going to happen. I know that we're going to be...we're already tasked for funding. There is nothing in this bill that says anything whatsoever about addiction, that says anything whatsoever about treatment. I think that ought to be in there. I think if we're going to present something to the voters, they need to know what we, as the Legislature, are saying this is a good thing; yes, you can vote on this with confidence; yes, this is going to be good for Nebraska. Until that happens, I just have trouble in voting a green on this particular measure. I think it can be improved. I've struggled with this but I think we need to allow the citizens a little better idea of what they are going to get, and let's follow the money a little bit. Let's see where the dollars are going to be. We're not saying where they are going to come from, where they're going to go. I think that needs to be done. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Janssen, followed by Senators Mossey, Hartnett, Beutler, Tyson, and Bromm.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, this does not mean, and I've said this before but I'm going to keep repeating it, this does not mean there will be eight casinos in the state of Nebraska. If you read the language, it says, the Legislature may allow up to eight casinos. Everybody starts even. Everybody has a chance. If it's the racetracks, they have a chance. That's one thing we've preserved in this amendment is the fact that the Legislature is still going to have control on that number. The State Gaming Commission will more...will probably regulate anything that happens inside of those casinos, in those facilities. We have expanded gambling in this state right now, if you really want to look at it. Now I can see that. I look at bingo. Bingo has been around for years. It's usually charitable organizations that run those. We have pickle tickets that have helped worthwhile causes throughout this state. I look at the Legions, the American Legion, that has sponsored baseball in this state and this country for years and years through Babe Ruth baseball.