

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

March 5, 2003 LR 11

Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate.

SPEAKER BROMM: The motion is successful. Debate is ceased. Senator Janssen, you're recognized to close on the advancement of LR 11CA.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. If you want to look at this proposal as an alternative to a measure that is gaining steam as we talk, and the frustrations of your constituents, not all of them, that's for certain, but I would say the majority of them, this is probably the first step that we're going to have to take in this long journey to finally get something before the voters of this state that the Legislature will have control of. Not as broad as I would have liked to had it. But when you come to compromise, this is what you...compromise is a give and take. I think what we have now is reasonable. Not like what I would have wanted to have, not like Senator Schimek would have wanted to have, not like Senator Beutler would have wanted, but it was a compromise. I believe with this proposal is probably as good as we're going to get. Gambling will not be saturated throughout this state. We have the opportunity to decide where they're going to be, or how many, or whether we want none. That will be an argument that we can address after the people decide, through the ballot, whether they want this style of gaming. I believe that the addiction rate will probably rise a little. But if you look at the proximity of the other states around us, I believe, in my humble opinion, that it is about as high as it's going to get now. We already have gambling in this state. We have bingo parlors. We have keno parlors. We have scratch tickets. We have the lottery, state Powerball, the big Powerball. Those numbers have declined since the advent of the casinos across the river. Naturally that's going to happen, because our population base is right there, within a...as George Washington used to do, within a stone's throw across the river. Now we're going to have a footbridge across there too, eventually. That will be neat. We can't get them across on the highways and the Interstate, we'll also have the footbridge for them. I'm asking you...this is a decision that you're going to have to make, whether to advance