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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pederson, would you yield?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I will.

SENATOR JONES: Yes. The first part of it there, where it says nothing in the Constitution of Nebraska shall prohibit the Legislature from being authority over it, or regulating it, let's go back to the scenario, if that one petition would have got on the ballot that they was running last year,...

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes.

SENATOR JONES: ...if this would have been in our constitution ahead of that, we could have regulated that, although that it didn't say that we could? Or how would that work?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, the reason that the legislation is put in this fashion...and contrary to what Senator Erdman was talking about, this does not direct that the Legislature shall do this. It says nothing shall prohibit the Legislature from coming forth with appropriate legislation if it desires. It just eliminates the requirement of the constitution that this may be a game of chance or may not be a game of chance. It clears up a problem. That's all that that does. And as far as what we do with it, this would then be for us at a later time to determine what we would authorize. We're not saying do this or do that, at this point. We're just simply clearing up the constitution to say that the Legislature retains control of the process, and that we can authorize or not authorize.

SENATOR JONES: The way I understand it, it would be nice if we had this in our constitution ahead of anything that we put out. And I'm concerned about LR 11CA, if that would get on the ballot and fail, and then a petition comes along afterwards. And I guess that's what I was concerned about.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yeah. I'm not sure, Senator Jones, that if we had just had this change in the constitution, that it would have thwarted the efforts of somebody to do an initiative petition. I think they still would have done an initiative