

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

April 2, 2003

LR 11

Pederson slash Bromm amendment does is open the gate just a little wider. I think that anything I say, or Senator Pederson, or Senator Bromm, as eloquent as they may be, aren't going to change a lot of minds. I think most of the minds here are made up. I had to change one from column A to column B. But Senator Chambers made the same remark. He thinks most minds are made up. And I agree with that. I do not agree, however, that by any action that we take here we can stop or render impossible another petition campaign. The gentleman who initiated and supported and paid for the last petition with his confreres will surely do it again if the court rules against him, as we think the court will. And why? Because the potential payoff is well worth the cost. And they will go to another petition drive like a sow goes to slop. Because they're there for the money, without anything holding them back as to the evil that they will do. My mind is made up too on this. I voted against this on General; I'm going to vote against it on Select; I'm going to vote against it on Final, and if it gets...if it gets to Final. And if it gets on the ballot, I'm going to vote against it there too. Because this is a zero-sum game as far as the citizen goes. Unlike some people here, I am not going to opt to let this go to a vote of the people. As I have mentioned here several times before, they did vote. They voted for me. They voted for Senator Schimek. They voted for Senator Janssen. And we're each going to vote as our conscience guides us. I am going to vote to represent my constituents. And I think that my vote is correct as to me, because what I hear in my home district is that the people who deplore gambling are in the ascendency. They are not the minority. Our job is to represent our constituency, and that's what I'm going to do. And I think that this is an easy call. I am not going to vote to drive restaurants out of business, to drive clothing stores to a lower net, lower gross, to deprive jobs that they have had...deprive people of jobs that they've had for years. Because bear in mind, a dollar in your pocket can be spent once. And once it's spent, it's gone. Gambling, as I have mentioned before, is an exchange of property without producing an intermediate good. You wager your money, knowing as you do so that if they are very, very generous they're only going to keep 93...pardon me, 7 cents of it. You might get 93 percent back. Do it often enough, and you got nothing back.