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LB 367

reduced...reductions in the money going to these good causes since they receive a percentage of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets that are sold. This is a problem that has been experienced in other states as well, and has been successfully addressed in the manner that I am suggesting in this bill, which is to increase the sale of lottery tickets by increasing the prize money being paid out to the players. Increasing the sales then increases the money going into the three funds, benefiting education, the environment, and compulsive gambling. LB 367 accomplishes this goal by changing the percentage transferred to these three funds that receive lottery money for a five-year period from October 1, 2003, to October 1 of 2008. A portion of the dollar amount of tickets which have been sold for that year, rather than 25 percent of the dollar amount, will be transferred to the Compulsive Gamblers Trust Fund, the Environmental Trust Fund, and the Educational Innovation Fund. However, the bill also contains a provision that guarantees the beneficiary fund will not receive, I say will not receive, less in dollars than they received in the year 2002 and 2003. In other words, if the proposed transfer is less than the dollar amount received in 2000-2003, they will continue to receive the amount they received in 2002-2003. Finally, the bill essentially sunsets after a five-year period and returns to the percentage of 25 percent. Therefore, the changes in percentage will automatically go back to the way it is unless the Legislature takes action again. I wanted this provision in there so that we had a time line to allow the program to work and come back and examine it and see if it was working correctly. By freeing up this mandatory percentage the lottery can increase payouts on the prizes, giving more money back to the player, and increasing the interest in the game. If the possible prizes are bigger then people are more likely to pay the game...play the game. What this should do is increase the overall revenues brought into the lottery by making a bigger overall pool of money and, therefore, increasing the share of that money going to those beneficiary funds. It is important...you know, this is a pretty important bill to advance if we want to increase the dollar amounts going to those funds benefiting from the lottery, while at the same time, at the same time, it is ensuring that they will not receive any less in dollars during that time period. I believe that when the people voted to have a state lottery in