

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

February 4, 2004 LR 14

oversight or regulation of those. You have, again, three petitions, any one of which may or may not pass. You have the petitioners, basically, setting the parameters on revenues, and I'm not even sure that is constitutional. It happens to be the statutory portion of the three provisions or the three petitions, and to me it looks as if it's in conflict with Article III, Section 2, of the constitution which says that revenues shall be allocated by the Legislature. That's what it says in the constitution, so I question that. It also says that taxes will be paid into a General Fund, and I'm not sure if that's what we want to happen, and it also allows video poker terminals, which are the most addictive kind. They allow them into the small communities and that's where it's most convenient for the person who lives in those communities. It means it will be very accessible to them and I think that is bad public policy. And, finally, I would say that the Legislature is basically out of the process here except for deciding where revenues accruing to the state will be spent. Now some of you might ask why I would be proposing a constitutional amendment with eight casinos. That probably seems contrary to everything that I've been saying over the years regarding the limited expansion of gambling, but that's not the case. This particular proposal that I might, incidentally, thank Senator Janssen and Senator Beutler and others for helping this develop, this actually doesn't say that we'll have eight casinos. It says that's the cap, and it says the Legislature would have the final say. So I have finally decided that I'm comfortable with that. I believe that we have to consider new and different ideas. The process has to be slow and we can take our time in the years after any kind of a petition would pass by the voters. And I can't help but believe that any petition that goes on the ballot this time has a good chance of passing and I think it is our responsibility to put something on the ballot that will allow this Legislature to have control over the process. If we don't, I think we'll be sorry later. I would like to give some of my time to Senator Janssen, if he would like it. How much time do I have left, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You have used about seven minutes, Senator Schimek.