

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

February 19, 2004 LR 14

if you all have had a chance to read them not...yet or not, but I think you should if you haven't. I'd just like to give you a quick down and dirty summary of them, and then maybe there will be further discussion on them. But they are really scary. The first petition would be a constitutional amendment which would guarantee the right of the people to pass any initiative that they wanted to, statutorily, to enact any kind of gaming law they wanted to. Now, I think that's pretty scary. That really takes all the prohibitions out of the constitution, constitutionally. The second thing it does is it allows the...or it does not allow the Legislature to overturn any law passed by initiative, except by a two-thirds vote. Now, I don't even know why they're doing that for certain. I can guess. We haven't had very many transgressions in our...in the history of our state. The only one I can think of was that seat belt law that was passed back in the, probably mid-eighties, and that was passed, I believe, as a statute, and then the Legislature eventually came back and overturned it. I don't know that there have been any other ones.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And I should look in the Blue Book, but that would apply to all initiatives passed by the people. A third thing it would do would authorize the communities to...or permit the communities to authorize games of chance. And the fourth thing it would do would be to provide what the gaming tax is on all these revenues. And staff has told me that what they're really talking about in this is taxing gross revenues...net revenues, not gross revenues. The...it's a little bit deceptive, the definition in that petition. So we're...there's a huge difference there that we're talking about. And do we want that being...does not the Legislature have the constitutional responsibility and right to decide what the revenues of the state are? I would...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...ask you that, and ask you to go to your constitution, because I believe that...