

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

February 19, 2004 LR 14

something like this. It would strike the underlying bill, which is LR 14CA, and we'd replace it with this idea. We'd call it the Better Nebraska Foundation, or whatever. Senator Vrtiska, you might have even a better name. I'd be willing to come up with a better one. But here's what we would do. We would take in voluntary donations to the state of Nebraska, just voluntary. Some people don't want to gamble, some people do. So it's a voluntary tax. So why don't we just call it that. So we'll have a voluntary tax and we will say for the betterment of Nebraska just make a donation. So people can make a donation but the state would only keep 20 percent of that, because that's approximately what we would tax a casino if it came to Nebraska. So we would keep 20 percent. We would give back maybe one-tenth of a percent to a percent in what we would call a payout, and that would be on everybody's tax statement, they would get a deduction of one-tenth of 1 percent of that amount as a tax deduction for their future obligations to the state of Nebraska. So we've got 20 percent that the state is going to keep, because that's all the state's going to keep if we have a casino, no matter how many we have. And then we would take the one-tenth of a percent up to a percent that we would give as a payout. That would be the equivalent of winning the slot machine at the casino. So we've done that. And then we would take the remaining 79 percent and we would direct the State Treasurer to write a check to Las Vegas. That's what we would do because that's what we're doing with the casino. So I think in fairness in advertising for the public to know we could come up with a foundation idea that Senator Schimek has mentioned, not this one, obviously, but a different idea and say here's the idea for the public to vote on. I think it would be up front and honest. I think it would be fair. I think the benefit of doing that, however, is we don't have the social decay that comes with this. There won't be the increase of crime, of me going to Senator Vrtiska and stealing his wallet so I could go give it to the state, which happens in casinos. People steal so they can go support their casino addiction and their habits and, potentially, we could have that on the ballot to have slot machines in downtown Bayard or Table Rock or Omaha so then we wouldn't have that problem either. And those people who wanted to donate, they could donate the money and it would be for the betterment of the state of Nebraska. It makes...it makes sense