

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

February 23, 2004 LR 14

discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Smith. Further discussion, that is, on AM2670. First speaker, Senator Tyson, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen. The other day, we voted...I'm speaking on AM2670, but I'm going to do it by talking about something that happened earlier, and that was AM2599. AM2599 was voted on, on the 20th, and we found 18 ayes, 20 nays, 10 not voting, and 1 excused. So AM2599 failed to pass, but it succeeded in the...for the purpose for which I believe it was intended by Senator Smith, who shows some admirable, truly admirable qualities, those exhibited earlier by Niccolo Machiavelli. There is another purpose in AM2599, and it succeeded for that purpose. AM2599 reads, "subject to the approval of the registered voters of the county voting on the question of whether such casino location shall be in such county." In other words, are the counties allowed to control what goes on within them? It's called local control. It failed, because local control means absolutely nothing. In an earlier parlance, it is a hissing and a byword. It means nothing, because the intent of this bill is to allow those lucky people, if they are allowed into this state, to plunder, loot, and burn where they will. Now, the people within this body that says, we want the democratic process, that's important, the people should be allowed to vote. I replied some time ago, and several times since, that they did have a right to vote; they voted for each one of us to carry their will here. It's called a republican form of government, not a democratic form of government. The point is, local control means local control, good times, bad times, your purpose, my purpose. And it was found not to be desirable when it meant that a county could control its own destiny in whether or not they should allow cancer in their county. Now we have another one. We have AM2670. And here again, that is a matter of local control, except that it puts a time line on it of five years. They should be able to steal enough from the general populace in five years that it would be really worthwhile going on to someplace else and clean out that barn. I support AM2670. I don't think it's going to go anywhere, because I don't think anybody here wants local control that also wants gambling in this state. But I admire Senator Smith's amendment, and I intend to vote for it.