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FLOOR DEBATE

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your presence. Members who are not excused, return to the Chamber and check in, please. Unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Senator Maxwell, Senator Schimek. All unexcused members are present. A roll call vote has been requested, and the question is whether the bill shall be bracketed. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 725.)
5 ayes, 30 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to bracket.

SPEAKER BROMM: The bracket motion is not accepted. I raise the call. We are back to discussion of the Schimek amendment, FA1483. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, the amendment that is before us has been divided, and we are talking about the number of casinos that would be allowed under this amendment, and I want to spend a few minutes talking about the population of the state of Nebraska and the number of casinos that might be supported here. I did vote for an amendment that was introduced last week which limited the number to one because, in fact, economic studies have told us that we do not have the population in the state of Nebraska to support a large number of casinos. In fact, we don't really have a large enough population to support more than one or two at the maximum. So the number that is before us is reduced to five but is still not small enough to be economically feasible. I have been on-line, as Senator Erdman has suggested you might do in doing your research, and I have here some articles from the Nevada Appeal, which is a newspaper in Nevada, and it...the headlines on this article, "Gaming finishes fiscal year 3.7 percent in the red." This was in 2002 because, in fact, they saw the destinations were suffering after the 9-11 incident and, in fact, while state officials had been hoping for a sign that the worst was over, they found no comfort in the June numbers, which were down 7.96 percent from the same month last year. Downtown Las Vegas, the Strip, Laughlin and North Las Vegas, Reno, Sparks, and reporting areas at Lake Tahoe and Wendover all reported overall win down from the previous fiscal year. Throughout the state, gaming regulators report game and table play decreased more dramatically than slot play,