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LR 209

appropriation of 41 percent of the lottery money to a constitutional status, for the environment, which it does not now have. Let me explain, if I can?

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes.

SENATOR LANDIS: We currently have a statutory methodology for handling the part of the lottery money that goes to environment. That money goes to the Environmental Trust Fund, and from there it generally goes to competitive grants, but not exclusively. Part of the money goes for running the trust itself. We don't use all of our money for competitive grants. We use our money for competitive grants and we use our money to run the Environmental Trust Fund itself.

SENATOR PREISTER: And sometimes we raid the fund.

SENATOR LANDIS: And we have, because it's a statutory authority that we have, the ability to change that statute, or to divert money.

SENATOR PREISTER: Correct.

SENATOR LANDIS: What we would no...what we couldn't do upon the passage of this constitutional amendment is to spend that 41 percent for something other than the environment. We couldn't spend it for roads. I think it's exactly what Senator Thompson's argument was a little bit before with respect to the State Fair. But it's that argument which would then move on to the area of the environment, which is, by 25 votes, we can spend the lottery money any way we want to, no matter what we told the public when this...when the lottery was passed, no matter what the characterization of our intention was. The only way that we have before us to keep that faith is, in fact, to pass LR 209CA.

SENATOR PREISTER: You're saying that then it would be in the constitution that 41 percent of the profits, the proceeds from the lottery, would still be earmarked for the environment. However, they would not be earmarked to be distributed exclusively through grants.