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LR 14

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Smith, I have recognized Senator Schimek to open on the amendment that was just now approved to be substituted. And so we'll continue with her opening. And your rising was not a point of order but another motion to withdraw. And I think we need to deal with the motion that's before us at this point in time. So I am going to recognize Senator Schimek to open on her motion. Senator.

SENATOR SMITH: I believe that I filed that motion in writing this morning, as well as stated it earlier, and I was told that it would be in order following the last vote.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator, it is a request to withdraw. It doesn't have any particular order. But we are on a pending matter, and we'll complete that pending matter before taking up any other matter. So I will recognize Senator Schimek to open on her substitute amendment, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I need to respond to Senator Tyson for just a minute. Senator Tyson, when I said that this was a simple change, I didn't mean simple in the sense that it was not an important amendment. I meant that it was a one-word change. It was easy for us all to understand. It's not going to take a rocket scientist to understand what this amendment is. The amendment provides three things. It provides for up to two casinos, it provides for the local vote that would ensure that if a casino were going to be placed in a particular county the people in that county would be allowed to vote for it, and thirdly, it provides for the Legislature to authorize any casino. And the word "authorization" was not included in the original bill and the original language. So therefore, we thought that we needed to be very clear that anything that was going to be established had to be authorized by the Legislature. In that sense, the amendment that I'm offering is simple. And I'd be happy to have any questions on it that you may have. But somehow, I think that most of you understand that this simply goes from five to two. And most of you have had some consideration of the numbers. We've had discussions of it before. I'm not sure that I think the number has to take us a long time to decide. I