

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

May 23, 2005

LB 332

be considered, in my mind and Senator Jensen's mind, I'll let him speak for himself, and I think several of us, this would be a one-time issue to help in this area over the next year. The amendment is drafted for \$500,000 this first year with the intention that it could carry over into the second year, which I think could be very possible. I will let Senator McDonald, I know she's looking at a study into the future, what more can be done to fund this fund from another source or using a constitutional amendment, whatever. But this would give us some money, a half a million dollars in this case, to go into the Gamblers Assistance Fund so that we can at least have something more in there offsetting that. So, per a summer study, there can be some things looked at and hopefully change the direction of the way we're going. I...if I can throw a little editorial comment in here, it's typical of agencies that we create that many times literally nearly run out of control in terms of the money spent, the intensity of the focus of what they consider their job. I understand that. But if you look at some of the handouts Senator McDonald handed out, we're one of the highest percent spent for advertising and so forth, and for those of us that are not that enthused about gambling, that becomes a problem, recognizing that it is state law, but we ought to have some modesty, if you will, or some moderation in the amount of money we spend. So this will be a temporary, if you will, way to provide some additional money to that cash fund for gamblers assistance, but it would only be considered to be a bridging or to fill the gap at this point until something more can be done, and it's not intended to be permanent, at least in my mind, from the Health Care Cash Fund.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. You've heard the opening on the Wehrbein amendment, FA296. Open for discussion. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Combs.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to support this. I would have supported the other action of Senator McDonald, but I have to take this opportunity to look around at my colleagues and tell you I told you so. When Senator Landis and Walt Radcliffe were running you all through with that constitutional amendment, this was one of the areas I mentioned, that you're going to be limited to the amount