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LB 332

SENATOR COMBS: Mr. President, members of the body, I am trying to help a little bit while we're waiting on the A bill, and we have talked about the advertising as a percentage of total lottery revenue. We do know that Nebraska's is very large, 3.6 percent, and it's more than twice what many other states pay. In Virginia, they only use 1.5 percent of the total gaming revenue, and the total revenue there is \$1,262,358,367. And in Nebraska it's only \$92,608,000. So they have a lot more than we do, so if you look at the amount being spent per gambler, it's tremendously higher. We're talking about these...these are percentages of the total lottery revenue, but when you look at the number of people gambling, that's really high. So the average that a gambler is costing the state, and we have no revenue coming in from anywhere to help them at this point other than what's been set aside that obviously is not enough, we really need to have this money set aside for them. We talked about other services that are being funded by other states. We do have, Arizona mandates \$500,000 per year to education and awareness, \$250,000 administered by the Department of Health Services and Gamblers Anonymous, Gam-Anon, Addictions Therapy Network, New Horizons, New Hope Alcohol and Drug Treatment, and they have many of the same things that we do: bingo, lottery, off-track betting, pari-mutuels, and then they also have, in addition to that, casinos, off-track betting, and nonbanked card games. I know that some of the services we are currently providing are being provided by volunteers. These are people that man the phones, that are in the crisis centers, and they are doing that for...without pay. So that's a very unstable source of help for problem gamblers because at any time we're subject to losing these people, and they are volunteering. So it's very important that we at least get established with a system that is dependable, that does have some adequate funding. And as others have talked before me, we have the interim to do an interim study and look at other forms of revenue that could be utilized from the gambling proceeds that we are getting in Nebraska. And I would give my time to Senator McDonald, if she would like any additional time. Oh, she waives. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Combs.  
Senator Janssen.