

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

April 3, 2006

LR 259

at least 90 percent of such fund, after the payment of administrative costs, shall be distributed annually through competitive grants to public and private entities, as determined by the board. So what we have here is the creation of a board. This board will manage these funds. The Legislature will enact laws to establish the various aspects of the board that need to be dealt with, such as the number of members, their qualifications, their terms, compensation, other things that should be handled legislatively. So we have the board created, the authorization of the Legislature to direct how that board is going to be constructed, and the Legislature can say how the funds will be managed, up to 10 percent, meaning that if that fund is to be raided by the Legislature, no more than 10 percent of that fund per year can be taken by the Legislature for purposes other than those specified in this amendment. The language in this amendment tracks that language which was used when the public was asked to vote to allow lottery funds to go to the Environmental Trust Fund. The Legislature is involved at every step of the way in the process established by this amendment. The exception...and I want to make that crystal-clear, so that nothing seems to have to been presented in a way that could be called a fast shuffle. If there would be \$100 million in the fund--so that I can use even and round numbers and not get lost--the Legislature can take as much as \$10 million from that fund to do what it wants to do with it. The other \$90 million will be handled by the board. The board will determine the distribution of the other 90 percent by means of competitive grants. Those grants will go to those entities, public and private, which will carry out the specified purposes in this amendment. Now to put it in a nutshell, to use that cliché, this amendment is designed to protect the funds that come from the lottery and are put in the Environmental Trust Fund from plundering willy-nilly by the Legislature. In the constitution will be placed the protection of 90 percent of that lottery money which goes into the Environmental Trust Fund. If you have any questions, I'm prepared to answer them. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Discussion of the Chambers amendment? Senator Schrock.