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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Janssen, I'm going to...since it's been some time since this bill has been debated, I'm going to give you an opening before we go to the amendment itself. If you just give us the background of the bill, and what the underlying bill did so it can give us some context where to start debate today.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Certainly.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Janssen, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. LB 791 is a bill that is designed to help address the declining revenues provided by the Nebraska Lottery and Excellence in Education Fund and the Environmental Trust Fund, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund. The state lottery has been experiencing a steady decline in sales over the last four years. This, then, reduces the amount going to those three causes. This is a problem that has been experienced in other states as well as Nebraska, and has been successfully addressed in the manner that we are suggesting in this bill. What it does, it increases the interest in the game and the sales by increasing the payouts, thereby increasing the payouts to the three beneficiary funds that are Education, Environment, and the Compulsive Gambling. LB 791 would accomplish this goal by reducing the mandatory percentage going to the beneficiary organization from 25 percent to 18 percent, but still the bill also ensures that the beneficiaries receive no less in dollars than they did in 2001. At the same time, it definitely allows the funds to receive more in dollars if that 18 percent generates more than the 25 percent did in 2001. Finally, the bill essentially sunsets after five years by returning to the percentages of 25 percent. Thereby freeing up this mandatory percentage, the lottery can increase its payout prizes, giving more money back to the players, and interest...and get some more interest in the game. If a person wins, they're more likely to play again, and what this should do is increase the overall revenues brought into the lottery, making a bigger overall pool of money and, therefore, increasing the share of that money going to the beneficiary funds. In my opinion, this is an