

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

April 6, 2004

LR 209

Nebraska to be appropriated by the Legislature for the costs of the lottery, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, education, the Nebraska State Fair Board, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund. But the only one in that group guaranteed the money is the Nebraska State Fair Board and that is not clear from this. This language would make people think that those other funds have the same status as the State Fair Board. One of my amendments would make the Compulsive Gamblers Fund an entity created by the constitution, it would make the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund created by the constitution, and it would also say those two provisions are self-executing. That would guarantee the existence of the Environmental Trust Fund. It would guarantee the existence of the Compulsive Gamblers Fund. And I had another amendment which would say that if the Legislature decides that a greater amount of money or a greater percentage of those funds should go to the Compulsive Gamblers Fund the Legislature could do that and the amount would be deducted on a pro rata basis from these other entities. The way the language exists that you all are being asked to vote cloture on would not allow a greater amount of money to go into the Compulsive Gamblers Fund. The breakdown is established in the constitution. Now, when we were discussing this at the earlier stage, before my colleagues were exhausted and whipped down by the "Emperor,"...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...there were questions about the wisdom of establishing in the constitution how money is to be allocated. That is not done when we come to funding public education or anything else that the state funds. So I am opposed to this going on to the ballot. I am definitely opposed to the language that exists now. And if Senator Landis is successful in getting you all to vote cloture, you are freezing, at this point, in the constitution this division of lottery funds. Now I definitely will not end my struggle against this if you vote cloture, but since my time is up, I'll have to put my light on again. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Friend.