

May 7, 1991

LB 849

committee amendments. (The Abboud amendment appears on pages 1978-79 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, this is the amendment that I discussed probably about a half an hour ago. It's been sent back down from bill drafting. It provides that...the amendment is the same amendment that I discussed prior but it also works right in with the amendment that we adopted previously, the Hall amendment that provided for one-half of the money going to the Education Innovation Fund and one-half of that money going to the Legislative Assistance Fund. And this particular amendment provides that one-half of one percent of the money from each of these funds be transferred to the Gamblers Assistance Fund and then the money is appropriated, as I stated previously, to be administered by the Director of Social Services to provide assistance and counseling to individuals and families experiencing difficulty as the result of gambling losses and to promote awareness of other gamblers assistance programs, such as Gamblers Anonymous and other programs that are available. I will be happy to answer any questions about the amendment. If not, that will be my introduction to the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion on the amendment by Senator Abboud. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Not on the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, just to rise in support of Senator Abboud's amendment. It's, I think, a very responsible approach.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I cannot rise to oppose the Abboud amendment. I actually support it but in many ways it's kind of a Pontius Pilate amendment. For the first time ever here today we are recognizing that there may be some bad effects from gambling in what we are doing. And I appreciate Senator Abboud and others that support this amendment for saying that, but I just find it a little odd that we talk about all the great things with a lottery and say, ah, we meant, by the way,