

committee amendments.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Schellpeper, would you care to open on the bill?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes. Mr. Chairman and members, this bill, Senator Smith was the main introducer of this bill last session and I don't claim to be an expert on any of the Indian rules. But this bill allows the Governor or his representative to negotiate a tribal-state agreement and under the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. And this is only the gambling on tribal lands. Now, the Class III gambling includes games such as keno, lotteries, which are permitted by state law but without certain limitations which may be required by state law. So even though it covers state law, they can still have limitations beyond state law but it allows the Governor or his representative to sign these agreements. But they can only do what is legal in Nebraska. They can't do things in Nebraska that are not legal. Whereas, over in Iowa they can have their casino gambling because they have riverboat gambling. In Nebraska, we have keno and that's the only thing they can have, or those types of gambling. And so this allows the Governor to sign those agreements. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Our next speaker is Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise in support of the advancement of LB 201. As Vice-Chair of the General Affairs Committee, I sat on the committee last year when we heard this bill and I've been active in the...in the gaming issues, as you well know. This, essentially, is putting in statute a process that is already taking place. With the passage of the Federal Indian Gambling (sic) Regulatory Act several years ago by Congress, some parameters were established under which Indian gaming takes place on reservations. As Senator Schellpeper alluded to, various classes of gaming were set up with various restrictions, depending on which class. And the Class III gaming is gaming that has to be negotiated with the state before the tribe can engage in it on the reservation. They're authorized, under the federal act, to engage in that type of gaming but there needs to be some sort of compact reached with the state. The Department of Revenue has been talking with the various Indian tribes in the State of Nebraska in order to reach such an agreement, and