

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members. Very quickly, Senator Moore I think just said most of what I wanted to say. But in looking at this particular issue, one of the questions I asked is, what do you do with an agency that basically no one needs anymore? Now the reason they don't have any funds is because no one has needed their services. And the answer was, well, you either state fund it, give it funds to subsidize it and keep it going, or you look at doing away with the agency on the state level. And that's what the Appropriations Committee really chose to do, not with the service. The service would be delegated down to the local level. It's just that that service...there just aren't that many events happening in the state anymore. One of the things that I heard, and I'm sure most of you have throughout the year, in looking at a new tax bill is the alternative to taxing people is to look at some type of a reduction in state government. You have the opportunity right now to look at are you going to create another state funded agency. The amount of money really should not enter into it that much, as much as the principle as you're going from a cash funded agency to a state agency. And it can be handled in a much better way, I believe. Those communities that are interested in sponsoring one of those events or groups can still get it done. The regulations will still be in place. You just will not be transferring a cash funded agency to a state supported agency. I, too, will oppose the Conway amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Seeing no further lights, Senator Conway, would you like to close.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Couple points I'd like to raise as we're going through this. First of all I'd like to say that the Government Committee's action on LB 1294 was not to put anybody's feet in the fire. And, in essence, we have by virtue of most of us, for a long time, have always subscribed to the concept if we're going to have a bill, or an agency, or an activity in place and then not fund it is somewhat ludicrous. And that's kind of where we're at, at this point, with respect to maintaining the...the Athletic Commission. And now we're asking to have the funds be put in. We're also in somewhat a philosophical dilemma because, as Senator Moore and other members of the Appropriations Committee have spoken out, here's an agency that was cash funded, the cash