

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LR10CA

Hearing Date: Monday January 26, 2015
Committee On: General Affairs
Introducer: Schumacher
One Liner: Constitutional amendment to permit the Legislature to authorize and regulate gaming

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Coash, Hughes, Krist, Larson, Schilz
Nay:	3	Senators Hansen, Kolterman, Riepe
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Paul Schumacher

Representing:

Introducer

Opponents:

Glen Andersen
Amber Parker
Pat Loontjer
Al Riskowski
Rev. Christian Meier
David Wimmer
Loretta Fairchild
Jenise Brown

Representing:

Gambling with the Good Life
Self
Gambling with the Good Life
Nebraska Family Alliance
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Self
Self
Self

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LR 10CA would place on the general election ballot in November 2016 a constitutional amendment that would amend Article III, section 24. On page 3, beginning on line 10, LR 10CA states, "The Legislature may authorize and regulate any other game of chance, lottery, or gift enterprise."

If LR 10CA were passed by the Legislature and passed by voters, it would mean that rather than requiring a constitutional amendment every time the Legislature or the public sought through the petition process to permit any games of chance currently not in the Constitution, it could be done through the Legislative process instead.

It should be noted that LR 10CA appears to be an exception that swallows the rule in Article III, section 24 (1). While the language in LR 10CA would still accomplish what seems to be the introducer's intent, it appears to make the language in (1) unnecessary.

Legislative Process -It should be noted that constitutional amendments are procedurally different than bills in that if passed by the Legislature on final reading, then the constitutional amendment is presented to the Secretary of State and not to the Governor for his or her consideration. The Secretary of State then places the constitutional amendment on the general election ballot for the voters to consider.

Tyson Larson, Chairperson