

dances, through whatever, and I'll let Senator Wickersham tell you about the bill, but the committee did pass the bill out on a 6-0 vote but added some clarifying language to make sure that the monies that are raised and put into trust funds, to make sure that they are not considered public funds, and then also to make certain that the funds and the way that they are raised and accounted for are not in conflict with the charitable gaming provisions of our law. So with that, I would be happy to try to answer any questions, and ask you to adopt the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Vrtiska, did you wish to discuss the committee amendments? Any discussion of the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you wish to close, Senator Schimek? She waives closing. We will now vote on the committee amendments to LB 516. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the committee amendments to LB 516, have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Wickersham, would you like to open on the bill?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be brief. Senator Schimek gave you a little indication about the subject matter of the bill. It really comes about because of developments during the year 1992 when we began to have opinions from the Attorney General's Office, from Accountability and Disclosure, from the State Auditor's Office that dollars raised by volunteer fire departments through raffles, through dances, as Senator Schimek says, through barbecues, other fund-raising activities, were subject to the budget act because they were included within the definition of all other funds. So they would be treated just like tax dollars and would have to be included in the budget and expended and receipted in accordance with that act. I didn't think that was an appropriate way to handle those funds. As you know, many of your volunteer fire departments are really separate organizations. They are not, in my view anyway, a part of any municipality. They are an entirely separate organization, and usually their membership is governed solely by their own rules. They set their own training. They set their own requirements for membership. They