

half minutes left on the opening.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues, yes, I did cosign this amendment with Senator Beutler and I think that, you know, one of the concerns as we dealt with campaign finance reform last year was how we were going to fund this and one of the concerns is whether or not we want to use public tax dollars to do that and one of the things that Senator Beutler brought this idea to me a while back. One of the things that we do as a state is we do provide the local political subdivisions with that ability to have keno and one of the things that he said, well maybe we ought to get some of that back, maybe we ought to use some of that for some of our projects here on the state level. So what we are asking in this amendment to do is to use 1 percent of the keno profits and that 1 percent would be divided equally for the...one-half of that anyway would go to campaign finance reform and it would only be...those monies would only be put into campaign finance reform until the point that \$2 million were in that fund and then all the rest of the money would revert to the other half of the amendment. I think it's one way that we can have in place when we put the campaign finance reform in place in a couple of years, we will have then at that point some money built up and we'll be able to put it into place and be able to say look, the money is there, the money is up front, we've already got money in the fund, we'll be able to work our way through the process and see how many of those dollars are going to be necessary and then we'll have a better idea in the coming years as to how many dollars it's going to take to run the campaign finance reform. So I think this is one method that we can do it without having to dedicate General Fund dollars. The General Fund dollars are short this year. We all know that. We've been discussing the budget all along. I think this is one way that we can fund something that state government does. It's going to provide good opportunities for us to fund the campaign finance reform and also to allow some local municipalities and stuff some relief in trying to fund some of this water testing that is being mandated by the federal government. So I think this is a good amendment. I would urge its adoption. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Baack. Senator Abboud, you're next.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Mr. President, colleagues, I would challenge the germaneness to this particular amendment. The