

for regulatory activities of the Department of Revenue. I think that we run the danger, in considering this amendment, of putting that on its head and putting other priorities first, but that is a string into the substantive area of the amendment. I would say simply because that has been the case we're dealing with a revenue source that is not a general revenue source. This has not been generally accepted as a revenue source that we've used for new programs or even for ongoing programs. Granted, there has been...60 percent of these taxes have been going to the state's General Fund but at this time we would be earmarking them for other programs and I believe that would be a departure from the traditional use of the funding source of gaming, of gaming taxes that typically we have used those for regulatory purposes and because of that they are a funding source that has not been a general funding source, therefore, should not be considered a general funding source for purposes of this amendment and for that reason probably using as a funding source, make this amendment not germane to the bill. I would urge your vote no against the motion to overrule the Chair.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Warner, on the motion to overrule the Chair.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd rise to support the Chair in its decision. It's pretty clear that the decision is correct as far as germaneness, but aside from that since we're not really talking about that most of the time, I'd go along and talk about the amendment also. I have a much deeper concern. Senator Beutler brought this over to me the other day and I was looking at it and thinking about it, but I have a much broader concern because I hear it time and time again lately on the floor, if I knew what the tax was going to be used for, I'd vote for it. If I knew what the tax was going to be used for, I'd vote for it. Well, there's a whole host of things that are funded out of the General Fund, some of which I like, some of which I don't. The question is whether there is a balanced source of revenue for this state and then secondly, it becomes a matter of distribution of what priorities you want to give. There isn't any quarrel with designating a tax where there is a clear user benefit and we have that in licenses and a variety of things all over the place but for the life of me, I do not understand, well I guess running for election is a gamble so maybe there's a relationship, but I can think of nothing that is more fundamental to government than the election process and