

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LR34CA

Chairperson: Senator Russ Karpisek

Committee: General Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 25, 2013

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

In 1867 Article III, section 24 of the Nebraska Constitution, like many state constitutions of the Civil War era, embodied the moral convictions of that age and proclaimed that it was beyond the power of the Legislature to authorize divorce and games of chance.

Over the years the Nebraska Constitution was incrementally amended to permit the Legislature to authorize divorce, horse racing, and lotteries conducted by businesses, local government, charities, and even the state, itself. At the same time, one by one similar prohibitions faded from the pages of the constitutions of the sister states.

It is the intent of LR34CA to allow the voters to decide whether or not to remove the last vestige of the prohibition on legislative authority over games of chance and to designate contingent funding priorities for education and health care. In and of itself LR34CA authorizes no new games of chance.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Paul Schumacher