

Testimony in Support of HB 1290

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Pete Bushey and I am the Gaming Manager for Horse Race North Dakota and also assist with gaming operations at two other charitable organizations, Harwood Area Fire and Rescue and North Dakota Horse Park Foundation.

As a charity, we are seeking the most efficient way to fulfill the State's reporting requirements. Some of the reports are due at the close of each quarter.

In the most recent quarter, we experienced a loss at one of our sites due to the requirement to close all games at the quarter's end. The current policy of requiring a quarter close is unnecessary. There are alternative methods for the State to obtain the data from Electronic Pull Tab games. Each game stores its deal data in a database that can be queried to generate the necessary reports.

Additionally, we can provide a snapshot of the games at any given time, which will enable each charity to pay the required quarterly taxes. The burden of closing the games falls on the charity, and this extra work offers minimal benefit to the State, as the same information can be gathered without the need to close every game.

Each time a charity performs a quarter close, there is a risk of human error, especially when selecting the games to close. Once a mistake is made, it cannot be corrected until the next quarter. Most charities only switch one game per manufacturer per quarter, meaning we essentially reopen 11 of the same games each time.

I propose that the State receive a snapshot of the games at the end of each quarter. This will provide the necessary data without forcing charities to close games early, which can lead to financial losses.

I urge you to support charities by passing HB 1290 and eliminating the unnecessary requirement of a quarter close.

Respectfully,

Pete Bushey

Horse Race North Dakota