

(Neb.)- Proposal Would Let Neb. Lawmakers Approve Gambling

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LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A Nebraska lawmaker wants voters to decide whether the Legislature should have the power to authorize casino gambling.

Sen. Paul Schumacher of Columbus pitched a constitutional amendment Monday that would place the question before voters in the November 2014 election.

The proposal itself wouldn't authorize gambling. Instead, it would give future Legislatures the power to authorize and regulate games of chance.

Lawmakers could use the revenue as they fit, but unused money would be divided three ways. Fifty percent of the revenue would go toward K-12 education, 49 percent would funnel into health care programs, and 1 percent would be sent to a compulsive gambling treatment fund.

Gambling opponents say the promise of education and health-care funding is a ploy to win favor with voters.