

E-tabs, a miracle cure or a placebo? In light of the May 2 [article](#) “Rocky rollout gives way to big haul from e-pulltabs,” I thought that it would be beneficial to peel the onion back a little further.

What really happened to the \$340,000 in e-tab sales at Skarda’s Bar, which was cited in the article as being the second largest e-tab seller? Of that amount, \$296,000 was returned to players in prizes; \$15,800 went to the state in gambling tax; \$13,600 went to the game provider; \$6,600 went to the bar; and \$1,070 was paid in sales tax (on the \$13,600), leaving the St. Paul Fire Fighters Local 21, which runs the operation, with \$6,930. Now pay for accounting help for the monthly returns and the annual outside audit, and the local will be the bottom rung of the ladder of who makes out with e-tabs. It will net less than 2 cents on every dollar wagered with e-tabs. E-tabs are a boon to the state, bars and the manufacturer, not so much for the charity.

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