
Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 1217

Brief Description: Providing the gambling commission with authority to determine locations where amusement games may be conducted.

Sponsors: Representatives Simpson, Alexander, Conway and Wood; by request of Gambling Commission.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides the Washington State Gambling Commission authority to issue amusement game licenses for locations that are in addition to those expressly authorized by the Gambling Act.

Hearing Date: 1/20/09

Staff: Kate Moeur White (786-5793) and Joan Elgee (786-7106)

Background:

Under the Gambling Act (Act), the Washington State Gambling Commission (Commission) regulates wagering on activities such as social card games, bingo, raffles, amusement games, punch boards, pull-tabs, and fund-raising events.

Several sections of the Act address amusement games. An amusement game is a game played for entertainment that involves active participation by the contestant and that awards merchandise prizes only, such as crane games. Certain other criteria must be met.

The Act authorizes the Commission to issue licenses allowing persons, associations, or organizations to conduct or operate amusement games in such manner and at such locations as the Commission may determine. The Act lists particular locations where amusement games may be conducted including certain fairs, civic centers, or amusement parks.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Commission rules allow licensed amusement game operators to conduct amusement games at commercially-operated family sports complexes, skating facilities, and grocery and department stores.

Summary of Bill:

The Commission is expressly authorized to license persons to operate amusement games at locations that are in addition to those listed in the Act.

Rules Authority: The bill does not address the rule-making powers of an agency.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.