
SENATE BILL 6430

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Schow and Spanel

Read first time 01/15/96. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to social card games; and amending RCW 9.46.0281.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9.46.0281 and 1994 c 120 s 2 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 "Social card game," as used in this chapter, means a card game,
6 including but not limited to the game commonly known as "Mah-Jongg,"
7 which constitutes gambling and contains each of the following
8 characteristics:

9 (1) There are two or more participants and each of them are
10 players. However, no business with a public cardroom on its premises
11 may have more than (~~five~~) fifteen separate tables at which card games
12 are played;

13 (2) A player's success at winning money or other thing of value by
14 overcoming chance is in the long run largely determined by the skill of
15 the player;

16 (3) No organization, corporation or person collects or obtains or
17 charges any percentage of or collects or obtains any portion of the
18 money or thing of value wagered or won by any of the players:
19 PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not preclude a player from

1 collecting or obtaining his or her winnings: PROVIDED FURTHER, That a
2 business licensed by the commission to operate a cardroom may
3 participate as the banker, or serve as the custodian of a player-
4 supported progressive prize contest, in any card game authorized by the
5 commission;

6 (4) No organization or corporation, or person other than one
7 licensed by the commission to operate a cardroom collects or obtains
8 any money or thing of value from, or charges or imposes any fee upon,
9 any person which either enables him or her to play or results in or
10 from his or her playing (~~(in excess of three dollars per half hour of~~
11 ~~playing time by that person collected in advance: PROVIDED, That a fee~~
12 ~~may also be charged for entry into a tournament for prizes, which fee~~
13 ~~shall not exceed fifty dollars, including all separate fees which might~~
14 ~~be paid by a player for various phases or events of the tournament:~~
15 ~~PROVIDED FURTHER, That this subsection shall not apply to the~~
16 ~~membership fee in any bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization));~~

17 (5) The type of card game is one specifically approved by the
18 commission pursuant to RCW 9.46.070; and

19 (6) The extent of wagers, money or other thing of value which may
20 be wagered or contributed by any player does not exceed the amount or
21 value specified by the commission pursuant to RCW 9.46.070.

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