
SENATE BILL 5553

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Winsley and Franklin

Read first time 01/26/2001. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to regulating gambling activities; creating new
2 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The public policy of the state of Washington
5 with regard to gambling activities is to keep the criminal element out
6 of these activities and to promote the social welfare of the people by
7 limiting the nature and scope of gambling activities by strict
8 regulation and control. The legislature finds that while the gambling
9 commission, the lottery commission, and the horse racing commission
10 currently perform those functions independently of each other, there
11 are many issues common to all that are handled differently by each.
12 This may affect both the public safety and welfare, and the potential
13 for industry participants to be subject to multiple regulation. Each
14 year, industry participants seek the authority to offer a broader range
15 of gambling activities, and consolidating and simplifying regulatory
16 processes may benefit the industries as well as the public.

17 With the growth of gambling industries and the potential for
18 violations of laws and rules resulting in harm to people and local
19 communities, strong state regulation and oversight is necessary to

1 protect all interests involved. Therefore, the legislature intends to
2 study the feasibility and benefits of a state-level single regulatory
3 scheme.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A task force shall be convened to
5 conduct a study of whether to combine the gambling commission, the
6 lottery commission, and the horse racing commission into a single
7 commission charged with regulating all gambling in Washington.

8 (2) The task force shall consist of the following members:

9 (a) The chair of the senate committee on labor, commerce and
10 financial institutions, who shall chair the task force;

11 (b) Two legislators from the senate committee on labor, commerce
12 and financial institutions, one each selected by the ranking member
13 from each major party on that committee;

14 (c) Two legislators from the house of representatives committee on
15 commerce and labor, one selected by each co-chair;

16 (d) The chairs of the gambling commission, the lottery commission,
17 and the horse racing commission;

18 (e) The executive director of the Washington Indian gaming
19 association;

20 (f) One representative from nonprofit gaming industry, selected by
21 the chair of the gambling commission;

22 (g) One representative of the cardroom industry, selected by the
23 chair of the gambling commission;

24 (h) One representative of for-profit establishments authorized to
25 have punchboards and pull-tabs, selected by the gambling commission;

26 (i) A representative of the council on problem gambling, selected
27 by the chair of the gambling commission;

28 (j) One representative of lottery retailers, selected by the chair
29 of the lottery commission;

30 (k) One representative of lottery vendors, selected by the chair of
31 the lottery commission;

32 (l) One representative from each of the class 1 racing associations
33 in Washington;

34 (m) A representative of the attorney general's office; and

35 (n) A representative of the governor's office.

36 (3) The task force shall consider:

37 (a) The feasibility of one regulatory body governing all gambling
38 activities;

- 1 (b) Any economic benefits, including cost-efficiency;
2 (c) The likelihood of improved protection of the public;
3 (d) Whether there would be benefits to consolidating background
4 investigation and business practices;
5 (e) The potential effects of centralizing decision-making processes
6 and enforcement; and
7 (f) Whether there would be benefits to consistency in regulatory
8 practices and administration.
- 9 (4) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
10 the senate committee on labor, commerce and financial institutions and
11 the house of representatives committee on commerce and labor by
12 December 1, 2001.
- 13 (5) This section expires March 31, 2002.

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