

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5556

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As of February 16, 2011

**Title:** An act relating to social card games in an area annexed by a city or town that allowed a house-banked social card game business to continue operating under RCW 9.46.295

**Brief Description:** Concerning certain social card games in an area annexed by a city or town.

**Sponsors:** Senators Prentice, Fain and Keiser.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection: 2/17/11.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Staff:** Edith Rice (786-7444)

**Background:** The Gambling Act authorizes social card games, including house-banked games, when licensed by the Gambling Commission. A gambling license is legal authority to engage in that gambling activity. A city, town, or county may absolutely prohibit gambling but may not change the scope of the license.

In 2009 the Legislature authorized certain cities that ban house-banked card games and annex an area that allows house banked card games to grandfather an existing card game business in the annexed area and allow it to continue operating. This authority was limited to certain cities with certain populations and that met other specific criteria. It only applied to house-banked card game businesses.

In November 2009 voters in the Panther Lake area approved the annexation of the area to the city of Kent, effective July 1, 2010. In April 2010 Kent adopted an ordinance allowing house-banked card rooms in the annexed area to continue operating.

**Summary of Bill:** The bill as referred to committee not considered.

**Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute):** A jurisdiction that prohibited house-banked social card games which annexed an area and permitted a house-banked social card game in the annexed area to continue operating before July 15, 2011, must allow all card rooms in the annexed area, operating and licensed on January 1, 2011, to continue operating. A

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jurisdiction that allows a social card game business in an annexed area to continue operating is not required to allow additional social card game businesses.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.