

---

## Commerce & Gaming Committee

---

### HB 2281

**Brief Description:** Amending types of nonprofit organizations qualified to engage in gambling activities.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Kloba and Peterson; by request of Gambling Commission.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adds religious and scientific purposes to the types of eligible purposes for an organization to be considered a "bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization."</li></ul>
---



**Hearing Date:** 1/13/20

**Staff:** Kyle Raymond (786-7190).

**Background:**

Washington's Gambling Act authorizes a "bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization" to conduct certain gambling activities such as bingo games, raffles, amusement games, and fundraising events to raise funds for the organization's purpose. Such a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization may also allow the use of its premises, furnishing, and other facilities by members of the organization for the playing of social card and dice games. Depending on how the activity is conducted, a license issued to the bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization by the Washington State Gambling Commission (Commission) may be required.

To be an eligible "bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization," the organization must be organized for one of the purposes specified in statute, which include agricultural, charitable, political, fraternal, or athletic purposes. In addition, the organization must be organized and continuously operating for at least 12 calendar months immediately preceding applying for a license to operate a gambling activity or operating any gambling activity for which no license is required. The organization must also demonstrate to the Commission that the organization has made significant progress toward the accomplishment of the organization's purpose during the 12 consecutive month period preceding the date of application for a license or license renewal, and

---

*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.*

may not pay its employees compensation other than is reasonable under the local prevailing wage scale.

**Summary of Bill:**

Provides that a nonprofit organization registered under Chapter 19.09 RCW is eligible to be considered a "bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization."

Religious and scientific purposes are added to the types of eligible purposes for an organization to be considered a "bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization."

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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