
SENATE BILL 5558

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Amondson, Vognild and Bauer

Read first time 02/03/93. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to gambling; amending RCW 9.46.0217 and 9.46.0281;
2 adding new sections to chapter 9.46 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 Washington blackjack shall be either a house or nonhouse banking,
7 card game permitted in Class A and E card rooms only.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.46.0217 and 1987 c 4 s 6 are each amended to read as
9 follows:

10 "Commercial stimulant," as used in this chapter, means an activity
11 is operated as a commercial stimulant, for the purposes of this
12 chapter, only when it is an (~~incidental~~) activity operated in
13 connection with(~~(, and incidental to,)~~) an established business, with
14 the (~~primary~~) purpose of increasing the volume of sales of food or
15 drink for consumption on that business premises. The commission may by
16 rule establish guidelines and criteria for applying this definition to
17 its applicants and licensees for gambling activities authorized by this
18 chapter as commercial stimulants.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 9.46.0281 and 1987 c 4 s 21 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

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

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

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

14 (3) Other than house dealt blackjack, no organization, corporation
15 or person collects or obtains or charges any percentage of or collects
16 or obtains any portion of the money or thing of value wagered or won by
17 any of the players: PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not preclude
18 a player from collecting or obtaining his or her winnings;

19 (4) Other than house dealt blackjack, no organization or
20 corporation, or person collects or obtains any money or thing of value
21 from, or charges or imposes any fee upon, any person which either
22 enables him or her to play or results in or from his or her playing in
23 excess of two dollars per half hour of playing time by that person
24 collected in advance: PROVIDED, That a fee may also be charged for
25 entry into a tournament for prizes, which fee shall not exceed fifty
26 dollars, including all separate fees which might be paid by a player
27 for various phases or events of the tournament: PROVIDED FURTHER, That
28 this subsection shall not apply to the membership fee in any bona fide
29 charitable or nonprofit organization;

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

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

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW
36 to read as follows:

37 A tax of five hundred dollars per table per month is imposed on the
38 licensee for the privilege of playing house-dealt blackjack. No other

1 tax may be imposed on the licensee for the privilege of playing house-
2 dealt blackjack. The tax shall be deposited into the general fund,
3 except for five hundred thousand dollars that shall be deposited into
4 the gambling revolving fund each biennium for programs to assist
5 compulsive gamblers.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** For the fiscal biennium ending June 30,
7 1995, any loss of tax receipts to the counties or cities resulting from
8 the game of house-dealt blackjack shall be reimbursed from proceeds to
9 the general fund under section 4 of this act.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 The department of revenue shall adopt those rules necessary to
13 enforce and administer section 4 of this act. Chapter 82.32 RCW
14 applies to the administration, collection, and enforcement of the tax
15 imposed under section 4 of this act.

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