

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5922**

---

**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial Institutions (originally sponsored by Senators Prentice, Winsley, Rasmussen and Oke)

Read first time 03/03/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a program for compulsive gambling  
2 education and awareness; creating a new section; and providing an  
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A joint select committee on problem  
6 gambling is established. The joint select committee shall consist of  
7 eight members, as follows:

8 (a) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the  
9 senate, appointed by the president of the senate, who are members of  
10 the senate commerce, trade, housing and financial institutions  
11 committee;

12 (b) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house  
13 of representatives, appointed by the co-speakers of the house of  
14 representatives, who are members of the house commerce and labor  
15 committee;

16 (c) In addition, the following agencies shall cooperate with the  
17 joint select committee and maintain a liaison with the committee: The  
18 Washington state gambling commission, the Washington state lottery  
19 commission, the Washington state horse racing commission, the

1 department of social and health services, and the department of health.  
2 The committee shall choose its co-chairs from among its legislative  
3 membership.

4 (2) The committee shall review the following issues:

5 (a) The need to develop policies and programs to address problem  
6 and pathological gambling and the response of the gambling industry to  
7 the demonstrated need;

8 (b) The need for public awareness programs about problem and  
9 pathological gambling, including programs targeting youth, and the  
10 effectiveness of current programs;

11 (c) The level of service provided to gamblers and their families  
12 through the help line and the best method of providing help line  
13 services;

14 (d) The availability of instate treatment services for problem and  
15 pathological gamblers and their families; and

16 (e) The appropriate level of public involvement in treatment  
17 services including public funding.

18 (3) The committee may consult with individuals from the gambling  
19 industry, nonprofit organizations with expertise in problem gambling  
20 issues, community mental health organizations, tribal governments  
21 involved in gaming, and law enforcement agencies.

22 (4) The committee shall use legislative facilities and staff from  
23 senate committee services and the office of program research, but may  
24 hire additional staff with specific technical expertise if such  
25 expertise is necessary to carry out the mandates of this study. All  
26 expenses of the committee, including travel, shall be paid jointly by  
27 the senate and the house of representatives.

28 (5) The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to  
29 the legislature by December 1, 1999.

30 (6) This section expires July 1, 2000.

--- END ---