

2776-S2

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, McCoy, Conway, Wood, Hudgins, Crouse, Kagi, Kenney, McMorris, Murray and McIntire)

Brief Description: Concerning problem gambling.

HB 2776-S2.E - DIGEST

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 3/2/04)

Declares that it is the policy of the state of Washington to set a dedicated source of funding to increase treatment services for problem gamblers, training in the identification and treatment of problem gambling, public awareness and education regarding problem gambling, and specific education and treatment programs regarding problem gambling for adolescents.

Provides that, during the 2003-2005 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the gambling revolving fund to the state general fund and the problem gambling treatment account such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the fund.

Requires that, of any amount transferred to the problem gambling treatment account, half must derive from gambling establishments operated by federally recognized Indian tribes, and half must derive from commercial gambling establishments regulated by the gambling commission.

Provides that, during the 2003-2005 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the state lottery account to the problem gambling treatment account such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the fund.

Establishes a task force on funding the treatment of problem gambling.

Requires the task force to develop a recommendation to the legislature regarding: (1) The scope of the need for problem gambling prevention and treatment based on the experience of other states with problem gambling treatment programs and research findings;

(2) A mechanism for all who conduct legal gambling and gaming activities to contribute equitably to funding for prevention and treatment of problem gambling; and

(3) A mechanism to ensure that funding for treatment of problem gambling increases in proportion to increases in gambling activities.

Requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2004.