
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8417

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Prentice and Parlette

Read first time . Referred to .

1 WHEREAS, Legalized gambling in Washington has continued to grow in
2 recent years. The legal and societal implications of the growth have
3 become increasingly more complex; and
4 WHEREAS, Washington is not alone in being confronted by these
5 increasingly difficult issues, as neighboring states and Canadian
6 provinces have also experienced similar challenges and are expected to
7 continue to do so in the coming years; and
8 WHEREAS, The changing landscape of gambling in Washington involves
9 a wide range and interrelated mix of gambling choices, which include
10 the state-run lottery, parimutuel horse racing, tribal casinos, bingo,
11 raffles, casino nights, commercial card rooms, punch boards, and pull-
12 tabs; and
13 WHEREAS, Entities offering these choices are continually affected
14 by and under pressure to respond to movements in competitive market
15 conditions, and policymakers are under pressure to consider changes in
16 the nature and scope of gambling activities currently authorized in
17 this state; and
18 WHEREAS, It is unclear what forces may be contributing to the
19 challenges faced by the various segments of the gambling industry and,

1 most important, what, if anything, the state can do to address the
2 challenges; and

3 WHEREAS, It is incumbent on both the executive branch and the
4 legislative branch to work together to achieve as full of an
5 understanding as possible of what is occurring in the gambling
6 industry, in order to make appropriate public policy decisions
7 regarding gambling which advance the best interests of the citizens of
8 the state;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of
10 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That:

11 (1) A joint select committee on the future of gambling policy
12 setting is established.

13 (2) The task force shall examine:

14 (a) The current and potential future of the nature and scope of
15 legalized gambling in the state, and how these forms of gambling have
16 developed and changed over time;

17 (b) The current and possible future tax structures relating to
18 gambling activities in this state;

19 (c) The nature of pathological or problem gambling, and current and
20 possible future efforts to address this social problem in this state;

21 (d) The current and potential future of the nature and scope of
22 legalized gambling in neighboring states and Canadian provinces, and
23 the potential competitive impact the gambling has or will have on this
24 state's gambling market;

25 (e) Current trends emerging across the United States and Canada in
26 each segment of the gambling market, and the potential impact of the
27 trends on the future of this state's gambling market;

28 (f) Recent state or federal court decisions, and the potential
29 impact these cases have on the future of gambling policy in this state;
30 and

31 (g) The manner in which policies on gambling have been and are
32 established in Washington and various other states, with a focus on the
33 strengths and weaknesses of each in effectively articulating and
34 implementing a consistent and coherent policy over the long term on all
35 significant issues including, but not limited to new gambling
36 offerings, gambling limits, and the location of gambling facilities.

37 (3) The joint select committee shall consist of twelve voting
38 members, including:

1 (a) The chair of the senate committee on labor, commerce, research
2 and development;

3 (b) Two other members from the majority caucus and three members
4 from the minority caucus of the senate, appointed by the president of
5 the senate from among the members of the senate committee on labor,
6 commerce, research and development;

7 (c) The chair of the house of representatives committee on commerce
8 and labor; and

9 (d) Two other members from the majority caucus and three members
10 from the minority caucus of the house of representatives, appointed by
11 the speaker of the house of representatives from among the members of
12 the house of representatives committee on commerce and labor.

13 (4) The joint select committee shall consist of the following
14 nonvoting members:

15 (a) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
16 representatives shall jointly appoint:

17 (i) One representative of a city or town that currently bans
18 enhanced cardrooms within its boundaries;

19 (ii) One representative of a city or town that authorizes enhanced
20 cardrooms within its boundaries; and

21 (iii) One representative of the county prosecuting attorney's
22 office;

23 (b) The governor, or the governor's designee;

24 (c) The governor shall appoint one representative each from:

25 (i) The Washington state gambling commission;

26 (ii) The Washington state horse racing commission;

27 (iii) The Washington state lottery commission; and

28 (iv) One representative of the department of social and health
29 services who has experience administering a statewide program for the
30 treatment of pathological or problem gambling.

31 (5) The initial meeting of the joint select committee shall be
32 jointly convened by the chairs of the senate committee on labor,
33 commerce, research and development, and the house of representatives
34 committee on commerce and labor. At the committee's initial meeting,
35 the task force shall choose its chair and vice-chair from among its
36 voting membership.

37 (6) In conducting its work, the joint select committee shall, to
38 the extent practicable, encourage, include, and involve participation

1 from throughout Washington by representatives of all recognized or
2 acknowledged tribes in the state, whether or not the tribe currently
3 operates: (a) A legalized class III gaming establishment; (b) the
4 commercial cardroom industry; (c) lottery vendors; (d) the charitable
5 gaming industry and those entities that benefit from such activities;
6 (e) problem and pathological gambling treatment providers, and others
7 active in the support of persons with problem or pathological gambling
8 conditions; and (f) members of the public.

9 (7) The joint select committee shall use legislative staff and
10 facilities. All expenses of the task force, including travel, shall be
11 paid jointly by the senate and the house of representatives. The
12 gambling, lottery, and horse racing commissions shall cooperate with
13 the committee, and shall provide information and other support as the
14 committee reasonably requests; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee may make a
16 preliminary progress report to the legislature no later than the end of
17 the 2007 legislative session, and shall submit its final findings and
18 recommendations to the legislature and the governor by January 1, 2008;
19 and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee disband on
21 January 1, 2008.

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