

SB 6266 - S AMD 582
By Senator Ranker

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The use of loot boxes and similar
4 types of mechanisms that provide randomized virtual items, including
5 virtual items known as "skins," in online games or apps has raised a
6 number of serious problems and concerns, including: (a) Whether games
7 and apps containing these mechanisms are considered gambling under
8 Washington law; (b) whether the use of "skins" in online games or
9 apps is considered gambling under Washington law; (c) whether these
10 mechanisms or virtual items belong in games and apps; (d) whether
11 minors and other young people, who may be more vulnerable to gambling
12 addiction, should have access to games and apps with these mechanisms
13 or virtual items; and (e) the lack of disclosure and transparency
14 with respect to the odds of receiving each type of virtual item.

15 (2) The Washington state gambling commission must conduct a study
16 of the use of loot boxes, skins, and similar types of mechanisms and
17 virtual items in online games or apps. In conducting the study, the
18 Washington state gambling commission must consider and gather
19 information related to the problems and concerns described in
20 subsection (1) of this section, legislation and regulation from other
21 jurisdictions, and other matters the Washington state gambling
22 commission determines are relevant.

23 (3) Not later than December 1, 2018, the Washington state
24 gambling commission must provide the appropriate committees of the
25 legislature written findings and provide recommendations regarding
26 how to best regulate the practice of including loot boxes, skins, and
27 similar types of mechanisms and virtual items in online games and
28 apps, including options for the adoption and implementation of a
29 regulatory and enforcement system, restrictions on the sale of games
30 containing these mechanisms, and any appropriate disclosures.

31 (4) The Washington state gambling commission must consult with
32 stakeholders in conducting the study and in making its
33 recommendations.

1 (5) This section expires December 1, 2019."

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2 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "apps;" strike the
3 remainder of the title and insert "creating a new section; and
4 providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Adds virtual items known as "skins" to the list of concerns and requires the Gambling Commission to include skins in the study and recommendations.

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