

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2205

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
State Government & Tribal Relations

**Title:** An act relating to bolstering the regulated sports wagering industry.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the regulated sports wagering industry.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Mena, Stearns, Chase, Peterson, Waters, Reed, Reeves and Pollet.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

State Government & Tribal Relations: 1/16/26, 1/23/26 [DPS].

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Permits sports wagering on collegiate sport and athletic events that involve a post-secondary educational institution located within Washington.
- Prohibits sports wagering on the performance or nonperformance of an individual who is enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution that is located within Washington.
- Allows wagers to be placed and accepted at a tribe's gaming facility if the customer placing the wager is physically present on the premises of any tribe's gaming facility.
- Permits a tribe to conduct sports wagering on the lands of another tribe subject to the requirements of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
- Establishes crimes and penalties for threatening a sports official, coach, or participant involved in a sporting event, athletic event, or competition upon which a wager is made.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL RELATIONS**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 5 members: Representatives Mena, Chair; Stearns, Vice Chair; Walsh, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Chase and Farivar.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Doglio.

**Staff:** Connor Schiff (786-7093).

**Background:**

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (1988) (IGRA) affirmed tribal gaming rights and provides a framework for Indian tribes and states to negotiate, on a government-to-government basis, for how class III gaming will be conducted within a state and on tribal lands. Under the IGRA, class III gaming is only authorized on tribal land if the governing body of the Indian tribe that has jurisdiction over that land adopts an ordinance or resolution authorizing such activities. Class III gaming includes banking card games, slot machines, pari-mutuel lotteries, electronic games of chance, and sports wagering.

Sports Wagering in Washington.

In Washington, sports wagering is permitted only at a tribal gaming facility of a federally recognized Indian tribe that amends its class III gaming compact to authorize the tribe to conduct sports wagering on its land. Gambling information may be transmitted over the internet for sports wagering, however, a wager may be placed and accepted at a tribe's gaming facility only while the customer placing the wager is physically present on the premises of that tribe's gaming facility.

With exceptions, wagers may be placed on any of the following sporting events, athletic events, or competitions:

- a professional sport or athletic event;
- a collegiate sport or athletic event;
- an Olympic or international sports competition or event;
- an electronic sports or esports competition or event;
- a combination of the above sporting events, athletic events, or competitions; and
- a portion of any of the above sporting events, athletic events, or competitions.

Wagers may not be placed on a collegiate sport or athletic event that is offered or sponsored by, or played in connection with, a public or private post-secondary educational institution located within Washington. Wagering on any minor league sport is also prohibited.

The following criminal prohibitions are class C felonies:

- No person may offer, promise, give, or attempt to give any thing of value to any person for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a sporting event, athletic event, or competition upon which a wager may be made.

- No person may place, increase, or decrease a wager after acquiring knowledge unavailable to the general public that anyone has been offered, promised, or given any thing of value for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a sporting event, athletic event, or competition upon which the wager is placed, increased, or decreased.
- No person may offer, promise, give, or attempt to give any thing of value to obtain confidential or insider information not available to the public with intent to use the information to gain a wagering advantage on a sporting event, athletic event, or competition.
- No person may accept or agree to accept any thing of value for the purpose of wrongfully influencing his or her play, action, decision making, or conduct in any sporting event, athletic event, or competition upon which a wager may be made.

#### Proposition Bets.

A proposition bet, or prop bet, is a wager placed on an individual player or specific event in a game or match that is not directly connected to the final outcome of the game or match.

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#### **Summary of Substitute Bill:**

Sports wagering on a collegiate sport or athletic event that involves a post-secondary educational institution located within Washington is permitted. Wagers on the performance or nonperformance of an individual athlete that is enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution that is located within Washington are prohibited.

A person who threatens a sports official, coach, or participant involved in a sporting event, athletic event, or competition upon which a wager may be placed with a threat that is related to the event or competition is guilty of a class C felony. It is also a class C felony for any person who has made this type of threat to place a sports wager.

A tribe's class III gaming compact may be amended pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to authorize the tribe to conduct and operate sports wagering on any Indian lands. For gambling information transmitted over the internet, a wager may be placed and accepted at a tribe's gaming facility if the customer placing the wager is physically present on the premises of any tribe's gaming facility.

#### **Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:**

The substitute bill establishes two new class C felony criminal prohibitions. It is a class C felony to threaten a sports official, coach, or participant involved in a sporting event, athletic event, or competition upon which a wager may be placed where the threat is related to the event or competition. It is also a class C felony for any person who has made this type of threat to place a sports wager.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available. New fiscal note requested on January 23, 2026.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) This bill expands collegiate sports wagering to include Washington colleges and universities but prohibits proposition bets on Washington collegiate athletes. This change would be consistent with what other states offer. Although wagering on Washington collegiate sporting events is not currently allowed, that does not mean it is not happening. The demand for these sports wagers already exists and there is no oversight of this illegal gaming activity. Permitting this type of sports wagering would bring this activity into the state's regulatory system, which would subject it to accountability and oversight. Illegal gaming would decrease. Washington has one of the strongest regulatory systems for gambling. The state should build on what already works. This strengthens regulations; it does not loosen them. This bill would put Washington collegiate sports wagering into the tribal gaming market, which has accountability built into its systems. Tribal gaming markets have trained system data information protocols to identify irregular activity. Individuals with problem gambling are more likely to seek intervention with an in-person interaction. Tribal gaming facilities help fund essential tribal services. This bill would create the opportunity for the hub-and-spoke, which allows smaller tribes to engage in sports wagering even if they do not have the capacity to have a server on their own property; this is a more efficient and effective system.

(Opposed) This bill does not protect collegiate athletes, who are very accessible in-person and online. Many college athletes have had on-campus contact with individuals that placed wagers on their games. This bill is a considerable expansion without any rewards. The proposed change would not shut down the black market. Individuals who are harassing student athletes are not being held accountable. The expansion of sports wagering to include collegiate sporting events has led to many scandals.

(Other) Student athletes must be protected. Student athletes receive training and have staff to assist them, but still need continued protection. The ban on prop betting is important and should remain in the bill. This bill aims to have wagering in a safe and controlled environment. Permitting this type of wagering does not increase consumer access or allow more people to participate. Sports wagering should be expanded to allow use of betting apps outside of tribal borders.

**Persons Testifying:** (In support) Representative Sharlett Mena, prime sponsor; Chairman Ron Allen, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Kevin Zenishek, Kalispel Tribe; Chairman Bill Sterud, Puyallup Tribe of Indians; and Yale Rowe, GM, Emerald Queen Casino.

(Opposed) Chris Mulick, Washington State University; and Brad Corbin, Washington State University.

(Other) Johnny Kampis, Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA); and Morgan Hickel, University of Washington.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.