
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8425

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Schow, Prentice, Heavey, Horn, Haugen, Long, Spanel, Rossi, Brown, Snyder, Patterson, Wojahn, Hochstatter, Zarelli, Roach, Oke and Winsley

Read first time 01/22/98. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 WHEREAS, Legalized forms of gambling in Washington state have
2 proliferated over the last ten years; and

3 WHEREAS, Neighboring states and Canadian provinces have also
4 recently expanded legalized forms of gambling and are expected to
5 continue to do so in the coming years; and

6 WHEREAS, The various segments of the gambling industry in this
7 state, including lottery, horse racing, tribal casino gaming, bingo,
8 raffles, casino nights, commercial card rooms, punchboards, and pull-
9 tabs have reportedly begun to experience market challenges; and

10 WHEREAS, As a result of these challenges, there are frequent
11 pressures to make changes in the nature and scope of gambling
12 activities currently authorized in this state; and

13 WHEREAS, It is unclear what forces may be contributing to the
14 challenges faced by the various segments of the gambling industry and
15 most important, what, if anything, the state can do to address such
16 challenges; and

17 WHEREAS, The executive branch and the legislative branch need to
18 have a full understanding of what is occurring in the gambling industry
19 in order to make appropriate public policy decisions regarding gambling
20 in this state; and

1 WHEREAS, The state's public policy on gambling, in many respects,
2 has not been clearly defined;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of
4 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a gambling
5 policy task force be established to examine:

6 (1) The current nature and scope of legalized gambling in the state
7 and how these forms of gambling have developed and changed over time;

8 (2) The current tax structure of gambling activities in this state;

9 (3) The nature of compulsive or problem gambling and current
10 efforts to address this social problem in this state;

11 (4) The current nature and scope of legalized gambling in
12 neighboring states and Canadian provinces and the potential competitive
13 impact such gambling has or will have on this state's gambling market;

14 (5) Current trends emerging across the United States and Canada in
15 each segment of the gambling market and the potential impact of such
16 trends on this state's gambling market;

17 (6) Recent state or federal court decisions and the potential
18 impact these cases have on the future of gambling policy in this state;
19 and

20 (7) The establishment of potential state-wide policies on gambling;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force consist of eleven
23 voting members, including: The governor or the governor's designee;
24 three members from the majority caucus and two members from the
25 minority caucus of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
26 Senate; at least one member from each caucus shall be a member of the
27 Senate committee on labor and commerce; and three members from the
28 majority caucus and two members from the minority caucus of the House
29 of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives; at least one member from each caucus shall be a member
31 of the House of Representatives committee on commerce and labor. In
32 addition, the task force shall consist of the following nonvoting
33 members: One representative each from the Washington state gambling
34 commission, the Washington state horse racing commission, and the
35 Washington state lottery commission; one representative of a recognized
36 tribe in the state that operates legalized class III gaming in an urban
37 area; one representative of a recognized tribe in the state that
38 operates legalized class III gaming in a rural area; one representative
39 of the commercial gaming industry; one representative of the charitable

1 gaming industry; and three members of the public. The nonvoting
2 members shall be appointed by the Governor's office, based on
3 recommendations made by the Senate and the House of Representatives.
4 The task force shall choose its chair and vice-chair from among its
5 voting membership; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force is authorized to expend
7 up to forty-nine thousand dollars to pay a consultant to gather the
8 appropriate data needed to obtain a clear understanding of the gambling
9 market in this state. The task force is also authorized to consult
10 with individuals from the public and private sector who have expertise
11 in the gambling industry in order to gain a clear understanding of
12 gambling in this state; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall use legislative
14 staff and facilities. All expenses of the task force, including
15 travel, and the cost of a consultant shall be paid jointly by the
16 Senate and the House of Representatives; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force report its findings and
18 recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 1999; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force expires January 1,
20 1999.

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