
HOUSE BILL 1917

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Benson and Barlean

Read first time 02/10/1999. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to definitions affecting gambling; and amending RCW
2 9.46.0265 and 9.46.0282.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9.46.0265 and 1997 c 118 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 "Player," as used in this chapter, means a natural person who
7 engages, on equal terms with the other participants, and solely as a
8 contestant or bettor, in any form of gambling in which no person may
9 receive or become entitled to receive any profit therefrom other than
10 personal gambling winnings, and without otherwise rendering any
11 material assistance to the establishment, conduct or operation of a
12 particular gambling activity. A natural person who gambles at a social
13 game of chance on equal terms with the other participants shall not be
14 considered as rendering material assistance to the establishment,
15 conduct or operation of the social game merely by performing, without
16 fee or remuneration, acts directed toward the arrangement or
17 facilitation of the game, such as inviting persons to play, permitting
18 the use of premises for the game, or supplying cards or other equipment
19 to be used in the games. A person who engages in "bookmaking" as

1 defined in this chapter is not a "player." A person who pays a fee or
2 "vigorous" enabling him or her to place a wager with a bookmaker, or
3 pays a fee (~~other than as authorized by this chapter~~) to participate
4 in a card game, contest of chance, lottery, or gambling activity, is
5 not a player.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.46.0282 and 1997 c 118 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 "Social card game," as used in this chapter, means a card game
9 (~~that constitutes gambling and is authorized by the commission under~~
10 ~~RCW 9.46.070. Authorized card games may include a house banked or a~~
11 ~~player-funded banked card game. No one may participate in the card~~
12 ~~game or have an interest in the proceeds of the card game who is not a~~
13 ~~player or a person licensed by the commission to participate in social~~
14 ~~card games. There shall be two or more participants in the card game~~
15 ~~who are players or persons licensed by the commission. The card game~~
16 ~~must be played in accordance with the rules adopted by the commission~~
17 ~~under RCW 9.46.070, which shall include but not be limited to rules for~~
18 ~~the collection of fees, limitation of wagers, and management of player~~
19 ~~funds. The number of tables authorized shall be set by the commission~~
20 ~~but shall not exceed a total of fifteen separate tables per~~
21 ~~establishment)) including but not limited to the game commonly known as
22 "Mah-Jongg," which constitutes gambling and contains each of the
23 following characteristics:~~

24 (1) There are two or more participants and each of them are
25 players. The number of card tables shall be set by the commission but
26 shall not exceed a total of fifteen separate tables per establishment;

27 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a
28 player's success at winning money or other thing of value by overcoming
29 chance is in the long run largely determined by the skill of the
30 player;

31 (3) A cardroom may serve as the custodian of a player-supported
32 progressive prize contest, in any card game authorized by the
33 commission;

34 (4) No organization or corporation, or person other than one
35 licensed by the commission to operate a cardroom, collects or obtains
36 any money or thing of value from, or charges or imposes any fee upon,
37 any person which either enables him or her to play or results in or
38 from his or her playing;

1 (5) The type of card game is one specifically approved by the
2 commission pursuant to RCW 9.46.070; and

3 (6) The extent of wagers, money, or other thing of value which may
4 be wagered or contributed by any player does not exceed the amount or
5 value specified by the commission pursuant to RCW 9.46.070.

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