

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6491

As Passed House:

March 6, 2002

Title: An act relating to meeting federal standards for criminal background checks for the liquor control board and the gambling commission.

Brief Description: Changing provisions relating to criminal history background checks by state agencies.

Sponsors: By Senators Prentice and Winsley; by request of Gambling Commission and Liquor Control Board.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Commerce & Labor: 2/21/02 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/6/02, 93-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Clarifies authority for the Liquor Control Board and Gambling Commission to conduct national criminal history background checks using the FBI database.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Conway, Chair; Wood, Vice Chair; Clements, Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Kenney, Lysen and McMorris.

Staff: Sydney Forrester (786-7120).

Background:

Both the Gambling Commission and the Liquor Control Board are charged with conducting criminal history background checks for the purpose of licensing. Both agencies access the FBI database through the Washington State Patrol. The provisions for conducting these checks through the FBI database are currently in regulation instead of statute.

The FBI recently reviewed state statutes and issued a requirement that language authorizing national criminal background checks be placed in statute in order to allow continued access to its database. The agencies were granted a grace period until May 1, 2002, to bring their statutes into compliance with federal law.

Summary of Bill:

The gambling statute and the liquor licensing statute are amended to reference agency authority access to the FBI database for the purpose of conducting criminal history background checks for license applicants.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The bill provides the needed conformity with federal law and allows agencies to continue current practice.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Prentice, prime sponsor.