H-3268.1

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**HOUSE BILL 2370**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Hurst and Sawyer

AN ACT Relating to prohibiting fantasy sports games; amending RCW 9.94A.515; adding new sections to chapter 9.46 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) The legislature finds that fantasy sports games are games of chance rather than skill and therefore constitute illegal gambling under the laws of this state.

(2) The legislature further finds that fantasy sports games offer participants the opportunity to bet less than one dollar up to over ten thousand dollars per contest, with the chance to win upwards of one million dollars, and that operators of fantasy sports games often take a cut of between six percent to more than fourteen percent of the sum of participants' bets.

(3) The legislature further finds that structural characteristics of fantasy sports games make fantasy sports games particularly dangerous to problem gamblers, including the ability to make large bets, the offer of winning large payouts, the short interval between placing a bet and determining the bet's outcome, and the misperception that skill is the dominant determinant of the outcome.

(4) The legislature further finds that, in fantasy sports games, the relative success of a participant is determined almost entirely by the element of chance rather than the element of skill.

(5) The legislature further finds that at least one major operator of fantasy sports games has made public statements describing the operator's fantasy sports games as gambling and that the operator's web site included keywords related to gambling hidden in the web site's computer code designed to lead internet search engines to suggest the operator's web site to internet users searching for gambling.

(6) The legislature further finds that, as reported in November 2015 by British journalist John Oliver, some operators of fantasy sports games have secured gambling licenses necessary to operate their fantasy sports games as legal sports betting operations in Europe, and that authorities in the United States are actively investigating or prosecuting some operators of fantasy sports games for violations of gambling laws.

(7) The legislature further finds that operators of fantasy sports games have caused the state of Washington to be inundated with advertisements intended to entice Washington citizens into placing illegal wagers on the collective performance of individuals participating in sporting events, in violation of Washington statute, the state Constitution and, potentially, federal law.

(8) The legislature further finds that operators of fantasy sports companies are misleading consumers about consumers' chances of winning money through the use of advertising slogans, such as "The giant check is no myth . . . become a millionaire!" and "taking home your share is simple: Just pick your sport, pick your players, and pick your cash. That's it. It's the simplest way of winning life-changing piles of cash."

(9) The legislature therefore intends to expressly prohibit fantasy sports games in the state of Washington in which a participant provides valuable consideration of any kind, and to impose criminal sanctions on those who offer for play, operate, or advertise such games.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Fantasy sports games in which a participant provides valuable consideration of any kind are a form of illegal gambling and are therefore prohibited. It is unlawful to offer for play, operate, or advertise a fantasy sports game in this state.

(2) A violation of this section is a class C felony as defined in RCW 9A.20.021.

(3) As used in this section, "fantasy sports game" means an imaginary or simulated game or contest, of any duration, and that contains the following elements:

(a) Participation in the game that requires a player to provide valuable consideration of any kind including, but not limited to, a fee, charge, bet, wager, promise to pay, or other thing of value, to another individual or entity;

(b) A player competes against other players or a target score, or other benchmark, as the owner, manager, or coach of an imaginary or simulated team of athletes that compete in imaginary or simulated games; and

(c) The game involves the use of statistics accumulated by the athletes in real-world sporting events to determine the scores or outcomes of imaginary or simulated games.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW to read as follows:

(1) It is unlawful to advertise a fantasy sports game in this state. For the purposes of this section, each discrete advertisement constitutes a separate offense.

(2) A violation of this section is a class C felony as defined in RCW 9A.20.021.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Advertise" means to disseminate, circulate, or place before the public, or cause to be disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public, directly or indirectly, through any medium, a message or announcement that is intended to cause or encourage a person to participate in a fantasy sports game.

(b)"Fantasy sports game" has the same meaning as in section 2 of this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW to read as follows:

The legislature finds that the practices covered in sections 2 and 3 of this act are matters vitally affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. A violation of section 2 or 3 of this act is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business. A violation of section 2 or 3 of this act is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.

**Sec.**  RCW 9.94A.515 and 2015 c 261 s 11 are each amended to read as follows:

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|  | TABLE 2 |  |
|  | CRIMES INCLUDED WITHIN EACH SERIOUSNESS LEVEL |  |
| XVI | Aggravated Murder 1 (RCW 10.95.020) |  |
| XV | Homicide by abuse (RCW 9A.32.055) |  |
|  | Malicious explosion 1 (RCW 70.74.280(1)) |  |
|  | Murder 1 (RCW 9A.32.030) |  |
| XIV | Murder 2 (RCW 9A.32.050) |  |
|  | Trafficking 1 (RCW 9A.40.100(1)) |  |
| XIII | Malicious explosion 2 (RCW 70.74.280(2)) |  |
|  | Malicious placement of an explosive 1 (RCW 70.74.270(1)) |  |
| XII | Assault 1 (RCW 9A.36.011) |  |
|  | Assault of a Child 1 (RCW 9A.36.120) |  |
|  | Malicious placement of an imitation device 1 (RCW 70.74.272(1)(a)) |  |
|  | Promoting Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (RCW 9.68A.101) |  |
|  | Rape 1 (RCW 9A.44.040) |  |
|  | Rape of a Child 1 (RCW 9A.44.073) |  |
|  | Trafficking 2 (RCW 9A.40.100(3)) |  |
| XI | Manslaughter 1 (RCW 9A.32.060) |  |
|  | Rape 2 (RCW 9A.44.050) |  |
|  | Rape of a Child 2 (RCW 9A.44.076) |  |
|  | Vehicular Homicide, by being under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug (RCW 46.61.520) |  |
| X | Child Molestation 1 (RCW 9A.44.083) |  |
|  | Criminal Mistreatment 1 (RCW 9A.42.020) |  |
|  | Indecent Liberties (with forcible compulsion) (RCW 9A.44.100(1)(a)) |  |
|  | Kidnapping 1 (RCW 9A.40.020) |  |
|  | Leading Organized Crime (RCW 9A.82.060(1)(a)) |  |
|  | Malicious explosion 3 (RCW 70.74.280(3)) |  |
|  | Sexually Violent Predator Escape (RCW 9A.76.115) |  |
| IX | Abandonment of Dependent Person 1 (RCW 9A.42.060) |  |
|  | Assault of a Child 2 (RCW 9A.36.130) |  |
|  | Explosive devices prohibited (RCW 70.74.180) |  |
|  | Hit and Run—Death (RCW 46.52.020(4)(a)) |  |
|  | Homicide by Watercraft, by being under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug (RCW 79A.60.050) |  |
|  | Inciting Criminal Profiteering (RCW 9A.82.060(1)(b)) |  |
|  | Malicious placement of an explosive 2 (RCW 70.74.270(2)) |  |
|  | Robbery 1 (RCW 9A.56.200) |  |
|  | Sexual Exploitation (RCW 9.68A.040) |  |
| VIII | Arson 1 (RCW 9A.48.020) |  |
|  | Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (RCW 9.68A.100) |  |
|  | Homicide by Watercraft, by the operation of any vessel in a reckless manner (RCW 79A.60.050) |  |
|  | Manslaughter 2 (RCW 9A.32.070) |  |
|  | Promoting Prostitution 1 (RCW 9A.88.070) |  |
|  | Theft of Ammonia (RCW 69.55.010) |  |
|  | Vehicular Homicide, by the operation of any vehicle in a reckless manner (RCW 46.61.520) |  |
| VII | Burglary 1 (RCW 9A.52.020) |  |
|  | Child Molestation 2 (RCW 9A.44.086) |  |
|  | Civil Disorder Training (RCW 9A.48.120) |  |
|  | Dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct 1 (RCW 9.68A.050(1)) |  |
|  | Drive-by Shooting (RCW 9A.36.045) |  |
|  | Homicide by Watercraft, by disregard for the safety of others (RCW 79A.60.050) |  |
|  | Indecent Liberties (without forcible compulsion) (RCW 9A.44.100(1) (b) and (c)) |  |
|  | Introducing Contraband 1 (RCW 9A.76.140) |  |
|  | Malicious placement of an explosive 3 (RCW 70.74.270(3)) |  |
|  | Negligently Causing Death By Use of a Signal Preemption Device (RCW 46.37.675) |  |
|  | Sending, bringing into state depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct 1 (RCW 9.68A.060(1)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the first degree (RCW 9.41.040(1)) |  |
|  | Use of a Machine Gun in Commission of a Felony (RCW 9.41.225) |  |
|  | Vehicular Homicide, by disregard for the safety of others (RCW 46.61.520) |  |
| VI | Bail Jumping with Murder 1 (RCW 9A.76.170(3)(a)) |  |
|  | Bribery (RCW 9A.68.010) |  |
|  | Incest 1 (RCW 9A.64.020(1)) |  |
|  | Intimidating a Judge (RCW 9A.72.160) |  |
|  | Intimidating a Juror/Witness (RCW 9A.72.110, 9A.72.130) |  |
|  | Malicious placement of an imitation device 2 (RCW 70.74.272(1)(b)) |  |
|  | Possession of Depictions of a Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct 1 (RCW 9.68A.070(1)) |  |
|  | Rape of a Child 3 (RCW 9A.44.079) |  |
|  | Theft of a Firearm (RCW 9A.56.300) |  |
|  | Unlawful Storage of Ammonia (RCW 69.55.020) |  |
| V | Abandonment of Dependent Person 2 (RCW 9A.42.070) |  |
|  | Advancing money or property for extortionate extension of credit (RCW 9A.82.030) |  |
|  | Bail Jumping with class A Felony (RCW 9A.76.170(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Child Molestation 3 (RCW 9A.44.089) |  |
|  | Criminal Mistreatment 2 (RCW 9A.42.030) |  |
|  | Custodial Sexual Misconduct 1 (RCW 9A.44.160) |  |
|  | Dealing in Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct 2 (RCW 9.68A.050(2)) |  |
|  | Domestic Violence Court Order Violation (RCW 10.99.040, 10.99.050, 26.09.300, 26.10.220, 26.26.138, 26.50.110, 26.52.070, or 74.34.145) |  |
|  | Driving While Under the Influence (RCW 46.61.502(6)) |  |
|  | Extortion 1 (RCW 9A.56.120) |  |
|  | Extortionate Extension of Credit (RCW 9A.82.020) |  |
|  | Extortionate Means to Collect Extensions of Credit (RCW 9A.82.040) |  |
|  | Incest 2 (RCW 9A.64.020(2)) |  |
|  | Kidnapping 2 (RCW 9A.40.030) |  |
|  | Perjury 1 (RCW 9A.72.020) |  |
|  | Persistent prison misbehavior (RCW 9.94.070) |  |
|  | Physical Control of a Vehicle While Under the Influence (RCW 46.61.504(6)) |  |
|  | Possession of a Stolen Firearm (RCW 9A.56.310) |  |
|  | Rape 3 (RCW 9A.44.060) |  |
|  | Rendering Criminal Assistance 1 (RCW 9A.76.070) |  |
|  | Sending, Bringing into State Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct 2 (RCW 9.68A.060(2)) |  |
|  | Sexual Misconduct with a Minor 1 (RCW 9A.44.093) |  |
|  | Sexually Violating Human Remains (RCW 9A.44.105) |  |
|  | Stalking (RCW 9A.46.110) |  |
|  | Taking Motor Vehicle Without Permission 1 (RCW 9A.56.070) |  |
| IV | Arson 2 (RCW 9A.48.030) |  |
|  | Assault 2 (RCW 9A.36.021) |  |
|  | Assault 3 (of a Peace Officer with a Projectile Stun Gun) (RCW 9A.36.031(1)(h)) |  |
|  | Assault by Watercraft (RCW 79A.60.060) |  |
|  | Bribing a Witness/Bribe Received by Witness (RCW 9A.72.090, 9A.72.100) |  |
|  | Cheating 1 (RCW 9.46.1961) |  |
|  | Commercial Bribery (RCW 9A.68.060) |  |
|  | Counterfeiting (RCW 9.16.035(4)) |  |
|  | Endangerment with a Controlled Substance (RCW 9A.42.100) |  |
|  | Escape 1 (RCW 9A.76.110) |  |
|  | Hit and Run—Injury (RCW 46.52.020(4)(b)) |  |
|  | Hit and Run with Vessel—Injury Accident (RCW 79A.60.200(3)) |  |
|  | Identity Theft 1 (RCW 9.35.020(2)) |  |
|  | Indecent Exposure to Person Under Age Fourteen (subsequent sex offense) (RCW 9A.88.010) |  |
|  | Influencing Outcome of Sporting Event (RCW 9A.82.070) |  |
|  | Malicious Harassment (RCW 9A.36.080) |  |
|  | Possession of Depictions of a Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct 2 (RCW 9.68A.070(2)) |  |
|  | Residential Burglary (RCW 9A.52.025) |  |
|  | Robbery 2 (RCW 9A.56.210) |  |
|  | Theft of Livestock 1 (RCW 9A.56.080) |  |
|  | Threats to Bomb (RCW 9.61.160) |  |
|  | Trafficking in Stolen Property 1 (RCW 9A.82.050) |  |
|  | Unlawful Advertising of Fantasy Sports Game (section 3 of this act) |  |
|  | Unlawful factoring of a credit card or payment card transaction (RCW 9A.56.290(4)(b)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Operation of Fantasy Sports Game (section 2 of this act) |  |
|  | Unlawful transaction of health coverage as a health care service contractor (RCW 48.44.016(3)) |  |
|  | Unlawful transaction of health coverage as a health maintenance organization (RCW 48.46.033(3)) |  |
|  | Unlawful transaction of insurance business (RCW 48.15.023(3)) |  |
|  | Unlicensed practice as an insurance professional (RCW 48.17.063(2)) |  |
|  | Use of Proceeds of Criminal Profiteering (RCW 9A.82.080 (1) and (2)) |  |
|  | Vehicle Prowling 2 (third or subsequent offense) (RCW 9A.52.100(3)) |  |
|  | Vehicular Assault, by being under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or by the operation or driving of a vehicle in a reckless manner (RCW 46.61.522) |  |
|  | Viewing of Depictions of a Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct 1 (RCW 9.68A.075(1)) |  |
|  | Willful Failure to Return from Furlough (RCW 72.66.060) |  |
| III | Animal Cruelty 1 (Sexual Conduct or Contact) (RCW 16.52.205(3)) |  |
|  | Assault 3 (Except Assault 3 of a Peace Officer With a Projectile Stun Gun) (RCW 9A.36.031 except subsection (1)(h)) |  |
|  | Assault of a Child 3 (RCW 9A.36.140) |  |
|  | Bail Jumping with class B or C Felony (RCW 9A.76.170(3)(c)) |  |
|  | Burglary 2 (RCW 9A.52.030) |  |
|  | Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes (RCW 9.68A.090) |  |
|  | Criminal Gang Intimidation (RCW 9A.46.120) |  |
|  | Custodial Assault (RCW 9A.36.100) |  |
|  | Cyberstalking (subsequent conviction or threat of death) (RCW 9.61.260(3)) |  |
|  | Escape 2 (RCW 9A.76.120) |  |
|  | Extortion 2 (RCW 9A.56.130) |  |
|  | Harassment (RCW 9A.46.020) |  |
|  | Intimidating a Public Servant (RCW 9A.76.180) |  |
|  | Introducing Contraband 2 (RCW 9A.76.150) |  |
|  | Malicious Injury to Railroad Property (RCW 81.60.070) |  |
|  | Mortgage Fraud (RCW 19.144.080) |  |
|  | Negligently Causing Substantial Bodily Harm By Use of a Signal Preemption Device (RCW 46.37.674) |  |
|  | Organized Retail Theft 1 (RCW 9A.56.350(2)) |  |
|  | Perjury 2 (RCW 9A.72.030) |  |
|  | Possession of Incendiary Device (RCW 9.40.120) |  |
|  | Possession of Machine Gun or Short-Barreled Shotgun or Rifle (RCW 9.41.190) |  |
|  | Promoting Prostitution 2 (RCW 9A.88.080) |  |
|  | Retail Theft with Special Circumstances 1 (RCW 9A.56.360(2)) |  |
|  | Securities Act violation (RCW 21.20.400) |  |
|  | Tampering with a Witness (RCW 9A.72.120) |  |
|  | Telephone Harassment (subsequent conviction or threat of death) (RCW 9.61.230(2)) |  |
|  | Theft of Livestock 2 (RCW 9A.56.083) |  |
|  | Theft with the Intent to Resell 1 (RCW 9A.56.340(2)) |  |
|  | Trafficking in Stolen Property 2 (RCW 9A.82.055) |  |
|  | Unlawful Hunting of Big Game 1 (RCW 77.15.410(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Imprisonment (RCW 9A.40.040) |  |
|  | Unlawful Misbranding of Food Fish or Shellfish 1 (RCW 69.04.938(3)) |  |
|  | Unlawful possession of firearm in the second degree (RCW 9.41.040(2)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Taking of Endangered Fish or Wildlife 1 (RCW 77.15.120(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Trafficking in Fish, Shellfish, or Wildlife 1 (RCW 77.15.260(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Use of a Nondesignated Vessel (RCW 77.15.530(4)) |  |
|  | Vehicular Assault, by the operation or driving of a vehicle with disregard for the safety of others (RCW 46.61.522) |  |
|  | Willful Failure to Return from Work Release (RCW 72.65.070) |  |
| II | Commercial Fishing Without a License 1 (RCW 77.15.500(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Computer Trespass 1 (RCW 9A.52.110) |  |
|  | Counterfeiting (RCW 9.16.035(3)) |  |
|  | Engaging in Fish Dealing Activity Unlicensed 1 (RCW 77.15.620(3)) |  |
|  | Escape from Community Custody (RCW 72.09.310) |  |
|  | Failure to Register as a Sex Offender (second or subsequent offense) (RCW 9A.44.130 prior to June 10, 2010, and RCW 9A.44.132) |  |
|  | Health Care False Claims (RCW 48.80.030) |  |
|  | Identity Theft 2 (RCW 9.35.020(3)) |  |
|  | Improperly Obtaining Financial Information (RCW 9.35.010) |  |
|  | Malicious Mischief 1 (RCW 9A.48.070) |  |
|  | Organized Retail Theft 2 (RCW 9A.56.350(3)) |  |
|  | Possession of Stolen Property 1 (RCW 9A.56.150) |  |
|  | Possession of a Stolen Vehicle (RCW 9A.56.068) |  |
|  | Retail Theft with Special Circumstances 2 (RCW 9A.56.360(3)) |  |
|  | Scrap Processing, Recycling, or Supplying Without a License (second or subsequent offense) (RCW 19.290.100) |  |
|  | Theft 1 (RCW 9A.56.030) |  |
|  | Theft of a Motor Vehicle (RCW 9A.56.065) |  |
|  | Theft of Rental, Leased, ((~~or~~)) Lease-purchased, or Loaned Property (valued at ((~~one~~)) five thousand ((~~five hundred~~)) dollars or more) (RCW 9A.56.096(5)(a)) |  |
|  | Theft with the Intent to Resell 2 (RCW 9A.56.340(3)) |  |
|  | Trafficking in Insurance Claims (RCW 48.30A.015) |  |
|  | Unlawful factoring of a credit card or payment card transaction (RCW 9A.56.290(4)(a)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Participation of Non-Indians in Indian Fishery (RCW 77.15.570(2)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Practice of Law (RCW 2.48.180) |  |
|  | Unlawful Purchase or Use of a License (RCW 77.15.650(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Trafficking in Fish, Shellfish, or Wildlife 2 (RCW 77.15.260(3)(a)) |  |
|  | Unlicensed Practice of a Profession or Business (RCW 18.130.190(7)) |  |
|  | Voyeurism (RCW 9A.44.115) |  |
| I | Attempting to Elude a Pursuing Police Vehicle (RCW 46.61.024) |  |
|  | False Verification for Welfare (RCW 74.08.055) |  |
|  | Forgery (RCW 9A.60.020) |  |
|  | Fraudulent Creation or Revocation of a Mental Health Advance Directive (RCW 9A.60.060) |  |
|  | Malicious Mischief 2 (RCW 9A.48.080) |  |
|  | Mineral Trespass (RCW 78.44.330) |  |
|  | Possession of Stolen Property 2 (RCW 9A.56.160) |  |
|  | Reckless Burning 1 (RCW 9A.48.040) |  |
|  | Spotlighting Big Game 1 (RCW 77.15.450(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Suspension of Department Privileges 1 (RCW 77.15.670(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Taking Motor Vehicle Without Permission 2 (RCW 9A.56.075) |  |
|  | Theft 2 (RCW 9A.56.040) |  |
|  | Theft of Rental, Leased, ((~~or~~)) Lease-purchased, or Loaned Property (valued at ((~~two~~)) seven hundred fifty dollars or more but less than ((~~one~~)) five thousand ((~~five hundred~~)) dollars) (RCW 9A.56.096(5)(b)) |  |
|  | Transaction of insurance business beyond the scope of licensure (RCW 48.17.063) |  |
|  | Unlawful Fish and Shellfish Catch Accounting (RCW 77.15.630(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Issuance of Checks or Drafts (RCW 9A.56.060) |  |
|  | Unlawful Possession of Fictitious Identification (RCW 9A.56.320) |  |
|  | Unlawful Possession of Instruments of Financial Fraud (RCW 9A.56.320) |  |
|  | Unlawful Possession of Payment Instruments (RCW 9A.56.320) |  |
|  | Unlawful Possession of a Personal Identification Device (RCW 9A.56.320) |  |
|  | Unlawful Production of Payment Instruments (RCW 9A.56.320) |  |
|  | Unlawful Releasing, Planting, Possessing, or Placing Deleterious Exotic Wildlife (RCW 77.15.250(2)(b)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Trafficking in Food Stamps (RCW 9.91.142) |  |
|  | Unlawful Use of Food Stamps (RCW 9.91.144) |  |
|  | Unlawful Use of Net to Take Fish 1 (RCW 77.15.580(3)(b)) |  |
|  | Unlawful Use of Prohibited Aquatic Animal Species (RCW 77.15.253(3)) |  |
|  | Vehicle Prowl 1 (RCW 9A.52.095) |  |
|  | Violating Commercial Fishing Area or Time 1 (RCW 77.15.550(3)(b)) |  |

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