
SENATE BILL 6266

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Carlyle, and Keiser

Read first time 01/11/18. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to loot boxes and similar types of mechanisms in
2 online games and apps; creating a new section; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The use of loot boxes and similar
6 types of mechanisms that provide randomized virtual items in online
7 games or apps has raised a number of serious problems and concerns,
8 including: (a) Whether games and apps containing these mechanisms are
9 considered gambling under Washington law; (b) whether these
10 mechanisms belong in games and apps; (c) whether minors and other
11 young people, who may be more vulnerable to gambling addiction,
12 should have access to games and apps with these mechanisms; and (d)
13 the lack of disclosure and transparency with respect to the odds of
14 receiving each type of virtual item.

15 (2) The Washington state gambling commission must conduct a study
16 of the use of loot boxes and similar types of mechanisms in online
17 games or apps. In conducting the study, the Washington state gambling
18 commission must consider and gather information related to the
19 problems and concerns described in subsection (1) of this section,
20 legislation and regulation from other jurisdictions, and other

1 matters the Washington state gambling commission determines are
2 relevant.

3 (3) Not later than December 1, 2018, the Washington state
4 gambling commission must provide the appropriate committees of the
5 legislature written findings and provide recommendations regarding
6 how to best regulate the practice of including loot boxes and similar
7 types of mechanisms in online games and apps, including options for
8 the adoption and implementation of a regulatory and enforcement
9 system, restrictions on the sale of games containing these
10 mechanisms, and any appropriate disclosures.

11 (4) The Washington state gambling commission must consult with
12 stakeholders in conducting the study and in making its
13 recommendations.

14 (5) This section expires December 1, 2019.

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