
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1880

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Commerce & Gaming (originally sponsored by Representatives Kloba, Harris, Davis, Ryu, and Stanford)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a joint legislative task force
2 on problem gambling; adding a new section to chapter 9.46 RCW;
3 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state
6 continues to have a responsibility to provide resources related to
7 prevention, treatment, and recovery for persons suffering with a
8 gambling problem or gambling disorder. The state last reviewed
9 problem gambling policies in 2005 and the gambling industry has
10 nearly doubled to more than a three billion dollar industry since
11 this last review. The legislature directed the gambling commission to
12 contract for a preliminary problem gambling study in 2018. The study
13 surveyed and reviewed current problem gambling programs and services
14 and responsible gaming practices in the state and provided a report
15 and recommendation to the legislature based on the findings in the
16 report.

17 Therefore, the legislature finds that a joint legislative task
18 force is necessary in order for there to be a comprehensive review of
19 current problem gambling funding, services, programs, and policies,
20 including review of the gambling commission's problem gambling study,
21 report, and recommendations. The task force will be responsible for

1 providing recommendations to the legislature on how the state should
2 continue to meet its responsibility to assist those who suffer from a
3 gambling problem or disorder.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) A joint legislative task force on problem gambling is
7 created. The task force membership is composed of:

8 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
9 senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

10 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses in the house
11 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
12 representatives;

13 (c) A representative from the health care authority;

14 (d) A representative from the department of health;

15 (e) A representative from the gambling commission;

16 (f) A representative from the state lottery;

17 (g) A representative from the horse racing commission;

18 (h) A representative from a nonprofit organization with
19 experience in problem gambling treatment and recovery services;

20 (i) Two representatives, one from a federally recognized Indian
21 tribe, with experience in problem gambling treatment and recovery
22 services;

23 (j) A member of the public who is impacted by a gambling problem
24 or gambling disorder;

25 (k) A representative from a licensed gambling business or
26 organization;

27 (l) A representative from a federally recognized tribal gaming
28 operation, group, or organization; and

29 (m) Other tribal representatives, state agency representatives,
30 or stakeholder group representatives, at the discretion of the task
31 force, for the purpose of participating in specific topic discussions
32 or subcommittees.

33 (2) The task force shall engage in the following activities:

34 (a) Review findings of the problem gambling study completed in
35 2018-19;

36 (b) Review existing programs, services, and treatment to address
37 problem gambling and gambling disorders in this state by public,
38 private, and nonprofit entities;

1 (c) Review existing programs, services, and treatment to address
2 problem gambling and gambling disorders in other states and the
3 federal government;

4 (d) Review the emerging nexus between video game addiction and
5 casino gambling addiction;

6 (e) Make recommendations to the legislature regarding:

7 (i) Whether additional research and study is needed on prevalence
8 of problem gambling and gambling disorder in the state;

9 (ii) Whether this state should expand state funding for
10 prevention, treatment, and recovery services to address the need for
11 these programs;

12 (iii) Whether the current delivery of state licensing and
13 certification of problem gambling providers meets the current and
14 projected future demand for services;

15 (f) Identify additional problem gambling areas for consideration
16 and any actions needed to ensure the state and/or regulatory agencies
17 are effectively addressing problem gambling in an attempt to reduce
18 the number of persons impacted by this disorder.

19 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the
20 senate committee services and the office of program research.

21 (4) The task force shall submit a preliminary report of
22 recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
23 November 1, 2020, and a final report by November 30, 2021.

24 (5) This section expires November 30, 2022.

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