SENATE BILL 5818

State of Washington   **66th Legislature**   **2019 Regular Session**

By Senators Conway and Keiser

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

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW
to read as follows:
(1) A joint legislative task force on problem gambling is
created. The task force membership is composed of:
(a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
senate, appointed by the president of the senate;
(b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses in the house
of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
representatives;
(c) A representative from the health care authority;
(d) A representative from the department of health;
(e) A representative from the gambling commission;
(f) A representative from the state lottery;
(g) A representative from the horse racing commission;
(h) A representative from a nonprofit organization with
experience in problem gambling treatment and recovery services;
(i) Two representatives, one from a federally recognized Indian
tribe, with experience in problem gambling treatment and recovery
services;
(j) A member of the public who is impacted by a gambling problem
or gambling disorder;
(k) A representative from a licensed gambling business or
organization;
(l) A representative from a federally recognized tribal gaming
operation, group, or organization; and
(m) Other tribal representatives, state agency representatives,
or stakeholder group representatives, at the discretion of the task
force, for the purpose of participating in specific topic discussions
or subcommittees.
(2) The task force shall engage in the following activities:
(a) Review findings of the problem gambling study completed in
2018-19;
(b) Review existing programs, services, and treatment to address
problem gambling and gambling disorders in this state by public,
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) Make recommendations to the legislature regarding:
5   (i) Whether additional research and study is needed on prevalence
6 of problem gambling and gambling disorder in the state;
7   (ii) Whether this state should expand state funding for
8 prevention, treatment, and recovery services to address the need for
9 these programs;
10   (iii) Whether the current delivery of state licensing and
11 certification of problem gambling providers meets the current and
12 projected future demand for services;
13   (e) Identify additional problem gambling areas for consideration
14 and any actions needed to ensure the state and/or regulatory agencies
15 are effectively addressing problem gambling in an attempt to reduce
16 the number of persons impacted by this disorder.
17   (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the
18 senate committee services and the office of program research.
19   (4) The task force shall submit a preliminary report of
20 recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
21 November 1, 2020, and a final report by November 30, 2021.
22   (5) This section expires November 30, 2022.

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