
ENGROSSED 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 with experience in problem gambling
21 treatment and recovery services, at least one of whom must be from a
22 federally recognized Indian tribe;

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

25 (k) A representative from a problem gambling recovery group or
26 organization;

27 (l) A representative from a mental health provider group or
28 organization;

29 (m) A representative from a licensed gambling business or
30 organization;

31 (n) A representative from a federally recognized tribal gaming
32 operation, group, or organization; and

33 (o) Other representatives from federally recognized Indian
34 tribes, state agency representatives, or stakeholder group
35 representatives, at the discretion of the task force, for the purpose
36 of participating in specific topic discussions or subcommittees.

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

38 (a) Review findings of the gambling commission's problem gambling
39 study and report completed in 2018-19;

1 (b) Review existing prevention, treatment, and recovery services
2 to address problem gambling and gambling disorders in this state by
3 public, private, and nonprofit entities;

4 (c) Review existing programs, services, and treatment to address
5 problem gambling and gambling disorders in other states and the
6 federal government;

7 (d) Make recommendations to the legislature regarding:

8 (i) How to proceed forward with a state prevalence study
9 measuring the adult participation in gambling and adult problem
10 gambling in this state;

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

14 (iii) What steps the state should take to improve the current
15 licensing and certification of problem gambling providers to meet the
16 current and projected future demand for services;

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

21 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the
22 agencies, departments, and commissions identified in subsection
23 (1)(c) through (g) of this section. The state agencies, departments,
24 and commissions identified in subsection (1)(c) through (g) of this
25 section may enter into an interagency agreement related to the
26 provision of staff support for the task force. Unless it is expressly
27 provided for in the agreement between the agencies, departments, and
28 commissions, nothing in this subsection requires staff of each of the
29 agencies, departments, and commissions identified in subsection
30 (1)(c) through (g) of this section to provide staff support to the
31 task force.

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

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

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