

Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7334

Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON GAMING.

Vote Date: 3/19/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/12/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

With the possibility of expanded gaming in the state, the objective of this bill is to establish a commission to oversee gaming functions. This bill would create a new state agency under the executive branch, and require the Department of Consumer Protection to transfer their responsibilities to it. This bill would eliminate the current 13 member Connecticut Lottery Corporation, and would be updated with said gaming commission.

*****Substitute Language**

The substitute language proposes conforming changes to other statutes***

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None was expressed for H.B. 7334

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Chuck Bunnell, Chief of Staff, Mohegan Tribe

Chuck Bunnell testified that the success of the Mohegan Tribe is also the success of Connecticut. He expressed that the tribe would be open to working with any commission the state decides to implement in regards to gambling expansion. He highlighted the revenue that Connecticut has gained from both the Mohegan Tribe, and the Mashantucket Pequot tribe.

Diana Goode, Executive Director, Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling

Diana Goode testified that it is imperative to the well-being of Connecticut that a commission is established when considering gambling expansion. She expressed that the Connecticut

Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) is proactive in ensuring that if gambling is expanded, that Connecticut residents will be protected from addiction issues that may arise.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Christina Bennett, Communications Director, Family Institute of Connecticut](#)

In her testimony, Christina Bennett expressed that the Family Institute of Connecticut (FIC) is concerned with gaming expansion. She expressed that the FIC is aware of Connecticut's fiscal issues, but stated the state needs to be prepared to address the possible negative impact it will have.

[Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate, Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ](#)

Michele Mudrick testified that the Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ is concerned that this bill is going to put the power of gaming in the hands of a few people, rather than the entire legislature. She expressed that they oppose this bill because they are weary of the commission only including individuals who have a pro-gambling agenda.

[Grace O'Connor, Member, Coalition Against Casino Expansion](#)

Grace O'Connor testified that she is concerned with the negative impact expanded gaming has on Connecticut's citizens, especially the states youth. She expressed that this bill has the effect to silence the public's voice when it comes to gaming.

Reported by: Nicoletta Blevins, Assistant Clerk Date: 4/4/2019