

Public Safety and Security Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-140
AN ACT CONCERNING STUDIES OF THE EFFECT OF LEGALIZED
Title: GAMBLING IN THE STATE.
Vote Date: 3/8/2022
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/3/2022
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

Co-Sponsors

Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.

Sen. Tony Hwang, 28th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will require that a study of how legalized gambling is impacting the people of the state of Connecticut. The study shall be done by January 1, 2023 and every ten years thereafter, and at other times if it is thought to be necessary. The department will submit the findings of any such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having such knowledge of the matters concerning gambling in the state.

Proposed Substitute Language

The proposed substitute language changes the date by which the study will be complete from January 1, 2023 to February 1, 2023 and every ten years thereafter, and at such other times as the commissioner deems necessary.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Michelle Seagull, Commissioner of Consumer Protection, State of Connecticut

This bill updates the CT General Statutes that requires the DCP to conduct the next study regarding legalized gambling. The January 1, 2023, depending on when the proposal is enacted the date may not be achievable. Funds also have not been appropriated to DOSR or DCP since the previous study. DCP is not aware of the current cost to conduct such a study but would need resources allocated for this proposal.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Christopher Davis, Government Relations and Responsible Gaming Manager, CT Lottery

CT Lottery supports efforts to obtain information on the effect of legalized gambling in CT. CT Lottery is ready to work with the Public Safety and Security Committee and the DCP to provide the necessary data to support this effort.

James Gessner, Jr. Chairman, Mohegan Tribe

The Mohegan Tribe takes the issue of problem gambling seriously, they were a founding member and major supporter of the National Council of Problem Gambling. An accurate accounting and common data source will be a useful tool for the state and the Tribe alike. The Tribe has contributed more than \$8 million to endeavors that support and provide resources to those struggling with problem gambling. In addition, they have partnered to create other avenues for people to get help. This work is not new to the Tribe.

Diana Goode, Executive Director, CT Council on Problem Gambling

The CT Council on Problem Gambling strongly recommend that the state through a neutral organization or institution of higher education, conduct surveys of the prevalence of gambling related harm, this is even more necessary since the expansion of legalized gambling in the state and at regular intervals to monitor the impacts and data regarding mitigation efforts. The study should be done by an independent provider that isn't affiliated with the gambling industry. These studies are necessary to direct resources to protect Connecticut's citizens from gambling related harms.

Kathy Hanley, Certified Prevention Specialist, Behavioral Health Director of Western CT Coalition and Coordinator of the Region 5 Problem Gambling Awareness Team

This study will help study the effects of legalized gambling in our state and identify risks and develop prevention messages to mitigate that risk, identify those who are negatively impacted and ensure harm reduction strategies and treatment supports that are available and the study will help understand the impacts of marketing and advertising.

Senator Tony Hwang, State of Connecticut

We knew the stakes would be high when the legislature took up the issue of expanded online gambling and sports betting, but not even the most seasoned gamblers could have imagined how quickly the negative impacts of gambling would rise in Connecticut. A non-partisan organization is needed to study how gambling addiction is impacting the state today and over the years to come.

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Support the bill. Since Foxwoods opened 30 years ago the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation has remained steadfast in their commitment to support a broad range of problem gambling initiatives both internally and within their operations through various partnerships in the community.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Godbout

Feels that his Fourth Amendment rights have not been recognized by the CT General Assembly.

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk

Date: 03/23/2022