

LEGALIZE SPORTS BETTING

AN ACT Relating to legalizing sports betting at the handful of state-regulated, licensed phase II house-banked card rooms now that tribes have been given a monopoly on legalized sports betting; adding a section to chapter 9.46 RCW; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

INTENT

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. This measure would legalize sports betting at the handful of state-regulated licensed phase II house-banked card rooms now that tribes have been given a monopoly on legalized sports betting. The Washington State Gambling Commission is responsible for ensuring that the requirements and protections are the same at nontribal and tribal establishments regarding legalized sports betting. The people believe giving the tribes a monopoly on legalized sports betting is the result of campaign contributions.

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

State-regulated licensed phase II house-banked card rooms are authorized to conduct and operate sports wagering on its premises provided the establishment is regulated by the Washington State Gambling Commission. Sports wagering is a gambling activity authorized by this chapter. The transmission of gambling information over the internet for any sports wagering conducted and operated under this section is authorized, provided that the wager may be placed and accepted at a card room's facility only while the customer placing the wager is physically present on the premises of that card room's facility.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW to read as follows:

(1)(a) For purposes of this chapter, "sports wagering" means the business of accepting wagers on any of the following sporting events, athletic events, or competitions by any system or method of wagering:

- (i) A professional sport or athletic event;
- (ii) A collegiate sport or athletic event;
- (iii) An Olympic or international sports competition or event;

(iv) An electronic sports or esports competition or event;
(v) A combination of sporting events, athletic events, or competitions listed in (a)(i) through (iv) of this subsection (1); or

(vi) A portion of any sporting event, athletic event, or competition listed in (a)(i) through (iv) of this subsection (1).

(b) Sports wagering does not include the business of accepting wagers on horse racing authorized pursuant to chapter 67.16 RCW.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Collegiate sport or athletic event" means a sport or athletic event offered or sponsored by, or played in connection with, a public or private institution that offers education services beyond the secondary level, other than such an institution that is located within the state of Washington.

(b) "Electronic or esports event" means a live event or tournament attended or watched by members of the public where games or matches are contested in real time by players and teams and players or teams can win a prize based on their performance in the live event or tournament.

(c) "Professional sport or athletic event" means an event that is not a collegiate sport or athletic event at which two or more persons participate in sports or athletic events and receive compensation in excess of actual expenses for their participation in the event.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the policies, purposes, and intent of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. This act is known and may be cited as "Legalize Sports Betting."

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