

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Ways and Means to which was referred House Bill No.
3 127 entitled “An act relating to sports wagering” respectfully reports that it has
4 considered the same and recommends that the report of the Committee on
5 Government Operations and Military Affairs be amended as follows:

6 First: In Sec. 1, 31 V.S.A. chapter 25 (sports wagering), in section 1301
7 (definitions), in subdivision (7), following “hardware, software, and data
8 networks” by inserting the words “that are” before the words “used to manage”

9 Second: In Sec. 1, 31 V.S.A. chapter 25 (sports wagering), in section 1301
10 (definitions), in subdivision (15)(B), following the words “of this subdivision”
11 by striking out “(16)” and inserting in lieu thereof “(15)”

12 Third: In Sec. 1, 31 V.S.A. chapter 25 (sports wagering), in section 1302
13 (Department of Liquor and Lottery; authority and duties), in subdivision (c)(5),
14 following the period at the end of the subdivision, by inserting the words “The
15 Department shall establish a process that allows a holder of a joint bank
16 account to exclude the joint account from all operator platforms in the State.”

17 Fourth: In Sec. 1, 31 V.S.A. chapter 25 (sports wagering), in section 1302
18 (Department of Liquor and Lottery; authority and duties), by striking out
19 subsection (g) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (g)
20 to read as follows:

21 (g) The Department shall include in its contract with each operator:

1 (1) a provision that prohibits the use of sports wagering advertisements,
2 logos, trademarks, or brands on products that are sold in Vermont and intended
3 primarily for persons under 21 years of age;

4 (2) the requirement that the Department and its operators shall
5 cooperatively develop an advertising plan, which shall include strategies to
6 limit unwanted advertising and advertising aimed at persons under 21 years of
7 age; and

8 (3) a cap on the amount spent by the Department and its operators on
9 sports wagering advertising within the State.

10 Fifth: In Sec. 1, 31 V.S.A. chapter 25 (sports wagering), by striking out
11 section 1304 (revenues to General Fund) in its entirety and inserting in lieu
12 thereof a new section 1304 to read as follows:

13 § 1304. REVENUES TO GENERAL FUND

14 The revenues and fees received by the Department pursuant to this chapter
15 shall be deposited in the General Fund.

16 Sixth: In Sec. 1, 31 V.S.A. chapter 25 (sports wagering), in section 1320
17 (sports wagering operators; competitive bidding process), in subsection (a),
18 following the period at the end of the sentence, by inserting the following:

19 It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department shall be guided
20 by and prioritize the following when conducting the competitive bidding
21 process, selecting operators, and structuring agreements with the operators:

- 1 (1) maximizing revenues to the State;
- 2 (2) reducing the illegal market and converting wagerers to the legal
- 3 market; and
- 4 (3) protecting Vermonters from problem gambling.

5 Seventh: In Sec. 1, 31 V.S.A. chapter 25 (sports wagering), in section 1320
6 (sports wagering operators; competitive bidding process), by striking out
7 subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c)
8 to read as follows:

9 (c) The Department shall assess an annual operator fee based on the
10 number of operators that are accepted through the competitive bidding process.

11 The annual operator fee shall be assessed as follows:

- 12 (1) For one operator, \$550,000.00.
- 13 (2) For two operators, \$275,000.00 per operator.
- 14 (3) For three operators, \$200,000.00 per operator.
- 15 (4) For four operators, \$162,500.00 per operator.
- 16 (5) For five operators, \$140,000.00 per operator.
- 17 (6) For six operators, \$125,000.00 per operator.

18 Eighth: In Sec. 1, 31 V.S.A. chapter 25 (sports wagering), in section 1320
19 (sports wagering operators; competitive bidding process), in subsection (d),
20 following the words “through the competitive bidding process” by inserting “,

1 provided that the revenue share shall not be less than 20 percent of adjusted
2 gross sports wagering revenue”

3 Ninth: In Sec. 1, 31 V.S.A. chapter 25 (sports wagering), in subchapter 4,
4 by striking out section 1341 (Problem Gambling Special Fund) in its entirety
5 and inserting in lieu thereof a new section 1341 to read as follows:

6 § 1341. PROBLEM GAMBLING PROGRAM

7 (a) The Department of Mental Health shall manage and administer a
8 problem gambling program to:

9 (1) support agencies, organizations, and persons that provide education,
10 assistance, awareness, treatment, and recovery services to persons and families
11 experiencing difficulty as a result of addictive or problematic gambling;

12 (2) promote public awareness of and provide education about gambling
13 addiction;

14 (3) establish and fund programs for the certification of addiction
15 counselors;

16 (4) promote public awareness of assistance programs for gambling
17 addiction; and

18 (5) fund a helpline with text messaging and online chat capabilities.

19 (b) On or before January 15 of each year, the Department of Mental Health
20 shall submit to the General Assembly a report detailing the activities supported
21 by appropriations made for the problem gambling program.

1 Tenth: By inserting a new section to be Sec. 2a to read as follows:

2 Sec. 2a. APPROPRIATIONS

3 (a) The following sums are appropriated to the Department of Mental
4 Health for purposes of establishing and administering a problem gambling
5 program:

6 (1) in fiscal year 2024, \$250,000.00; and

7 (2) in fiscal year 2025, \$500,000.00.

8 (b) In fiscal year 2024, \$550,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund
9 to the Department of Liquor and Lottery. This appropriation is made in
10 anticipation of receipts from sports wagering operator fees.

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14 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE