

1 H.46

2 Introduced by Representative Jickling of Randolph

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Sports betting; Sports Betting Study Committee

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
7 Sports Betting Study Committee to examine potential models for legalizing,
8 regulating, and taxing sports betting in Vermont, and to prepare proposed
9 legislation that will provide for the gradual legalization of the activity.

10 An act relating to the creation of the Sports Betting Study Committee

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. SPORTS BETTING; FINDINGS

13 The General Assembly finds that:

14 (1) An estimated 28 percent of adults in the United States bet on sports.

15 (2) Based on current participation rates and expected growth, studies
16 have estimated that Vermont could generate from \$1.1 million to \$4.2 million
17 in gaming revenue taxes.

18 (3) At least seven states have legal sports betting operations, and
19 legislation has been introduced in other states to legalize, regulate, and tax the
20 activity.

1 (4) Given the widespread participation in sports betting, the General
2 Assembly finds that careful examination of whether to legalize sports betting
3 and how best to regulate sports betting in Vermont and protect Vermonters
4 involved in sports betting is necessary.

5 Sec. 2. SPORTS BETTING; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

6 (a) Creation. There is created the Sports Betting Study Committee to
7 examine potential models for legalizing, regulating, and taxing sports betting
8 in Vermont and to prepare proposed legislation that will provide for the
9 gradual legalization of the activity.

10 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
11 members:

12 (1) two current members of the House of Representatives, not all from
13 the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

14 (2) two current members of the Senate, not all from the same political
15 party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

16 (3) the Attorney General or designee;

17 (4) the Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery or designee; and

18 (5) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee.

19 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall examine potential models for
20 legalizing, regulating, and taxing sports betting in Vermont. In particular, the
21 Committee shall study the following:

1 (1) studies carried out by other states concerning the legalization,
2 taxation, and regulation of sports betting;

3 (2) laws enacted by other states to legalize, tax, and regulate sports
4 betting;

5 (3) potential models to legalize, tax, and regulate sports betting in
6 Vermont, including:

7 (A) the potential regulation of sports betting through the Department
8 of Liquor and Lottery, as well as other State agencies or departments;

9 (B) the possibility of regulation through a newly created State entity,
10 such as a State gaming commission modeled on the gaming commissions from
11 other states;

12 (C) the licensing of in-person retail sports betting at locations such as
13 existing lottery agencies or independent gaming establishments, including
14 whether there should be a limited number of establishments during the initial
15 period following legalization;

16 (D) models for the gradual expansion of sports betting to additional
17 venues, including online sports betting, or a greater number of licensees;

18 (E) models for taxes and fees related to sports betting; and

19 (F) possible restrictions on the sports that may be bet on, including
20 whether betting should be limited or prohibited in relation to:

21 (i) specific types of sports;

1 (ii) high school sports;

2 (iii) college sports;

3 (iv) amateur sports; or

4 (v) sports competitions occurring in Vermont.

5 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
6 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal
7 Office.

8 (e) Report. On or before December 15, 2019, the Committee shall submit a
9 written report on its findings to the House Committee on General, Housing,
10 and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development,
11 Housing and General Affairs. The report shall include draft legislation to
12 gradually legalize sports betting in Vermont under the oversight of the
13 Department of Liquor and Lottery, which shall provide for legalized betting to
14 initially be available at a limited number of in-person retail locations and to
15 gradually expand to include additional locations or types of establishments and
16 online betting.

17 (f) Meetings.

18 (1) The Speaker of the House shall call the first meeting of the
19 Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2019.

20 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
21 first meeting.

1 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

2 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 30, 2019.

3 (g) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during
4 adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee
5 serving in his or her capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem
6 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for
7 not more than four meetings. These payments shall be made from monies
8 appropriated to the General Assembly.

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.