

S.59

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

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

Sec. 1. SPORTS BETTING; FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

(3) As of March 2020, 15 states have active legal sports betting operations while an additional five states and Washington, D.C. have enacted laws or adopted ballot measures to permit legal sports betting.

(4) Legislation has also been introduced in at least 26 states, including Vermont, to legalize, regulate, and tax sports betting.

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

Sec. 2. SPORTS BETTING; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Sports Betting Study Committee to examine whether and how to regulate sports betting in Vermont.

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

(1) the Attorney General or designee;

(2) the Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery or designee;

(3) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee;

(4) the Secretary of State or designee;

(5) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee;

(6) two current members of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

(7) two current members of the House, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(c) Powers and duties. The Study Committee shall study various models for legalizing, taxing, and regulating sports betting, including the following issues:

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

- (2) laws enacted by other states to legalize, tax, and regulate sports betting;
- (3) potential models for legalizing and regulating sports betting in Vermont, including any advantages or drawbacks to each model;
- (4) potential models for legalizing and regulating online sports betting, including any advantages or drawbacks to each model;
- (5) potential tax and fee structures for sports betting activities;
- (6) potential restrictions or limitations on the types of sports that may be bet on, including whether and to what extent restrictions should be imposed with respect to the participant age, amateur status, and location of sporting events that may be bet on; and
- (7) potential impacts on various socioeconomic and demographic groups and on problem gambling, and the resources necessary to address the identified impacts.
- (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.
- (e) Report. On or before December 15, 2020, the Study Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development,

Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Attorney General or designee shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2020.

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

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

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 30, 2020.

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

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.