

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs to  
3 which was referred Senate Bill No. 59 entitled “An act relating to the creation  
4 of the Sports Betting Study Committee” respectfully reports that it has  
5 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out  
6 all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. SPORTS BETTING; FINDINGS

8 The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6                   (1) the Attorney General or designee;

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

8                   (3) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee;

9                   (4) the Secretary of State or designee;

10                  (5) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or

11                  designee;

12                  (6) two current members of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the

13                  Committee on Committees; and

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

15                  Speaker of the House.

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

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

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

3           (3) potential models for legalizing and regulating sports betting in  
4 Vermont, including any advantages or drawbacks to each model;

5           (4) potential models for legalizing and regulating online sports betting,  
6 including any advantages or drawbacks to each model;

7           (5) potential tax and fee structures for sports betting activities; and

8           (6) potential restrictions or limitations on the types of sports that may  
9 be bet on.

10           (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,  
11 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal  
12 Office.

13           (e) Report. On or before December 15, 2020, the Study Committee shall  
14 submit a written report to the House Committee on General, Housing, and  
15 Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development,  
16 Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for  
17 legislative action.

18           (f) Meetings.

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

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

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

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

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

11          Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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19          (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE