

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 50

BY SENATOR REESE

GAMBLING. Prohibits certain persons from wagering on sports events. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:90.8, relative to sports wagering; to prohibit certain persons from wagering  
3 on sports events; to provide for definitions; to provide for penalties; to provide for  
4 exceptions; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:90.8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§90.8. Unlawful wagering; prohibited player**

8 **A.(1) It is unlawful for a prohibited player to wager on a sports event,**  
9 **personally or through another individual or proxy.**

10 **(2) It is unlawful for a person or entity to facilitate or place a sports**  
11 **wager on behalf of a prohibited player.**

12 **B. For purposes of this Section, "prohibited player" means a person who**  
13 **is prohibited from placing a wager on a sports event by any of the following:**

14 **(1) Chapter 10 of Title 27 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,**  
15 **particularly R.S. 27:608, or Louisiana Administrative Code Title 42, Part VI.**

16 **(2) Participation in a self-restriction or self-exclusion program in**  
17 **accordance with R.S. 27:27.1 or Louisiana Administrative Code Title 42, Part**

1           **III, Chapter 3.**

2                   **(3) Any other law, administrative rule, or policy of any jurisdiction, the**  
3                   **sports wagering operator, the sports book, or a sports governing body.**

4                   **C. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more**  
5                   **than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.**  
6                   **Upon a second or subsequent conviction for a violation of this Section, the**  
7                   **penalty shall be a fine of one thousand dollars, or imprisonment for not more**  
8                   **than one year, or both.**

9                   **D. Whoever conducts, finances, manages, supervises, directs, leases, or**  
10                   **owns all or part of a business when the person knowingly allows a prohibited**  
11                   **player to wager on a sports event shall be fined not more than twenty thousand**  
12                   **dollars, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than five years,**  
13                   **or both.**

14                   **E.(1) A person, business, or entity licensed or sports wagering operator**  
15                   **permitted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 10 of Title 27 of the Louisiana**  
16                   **Revised Statutes of 1950 shall not be subject to the penalty contained in**  
17                   **Subsection D of this Section if the licensee or permittee has taken commercially**  
18                   **reasonable methods to prevent a prohibited player from placing a wager on a**  
19                   **sports event in person, on a sports wagering mechanism, or through a mobile**  
20                   **application.**

21                   **(2) A sports wagering platform provider permitted pursuant to the**  
22                   **provisions of Chapter 10 of Subtitle XI of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised**  
23                   **Statutes of 1950 shall not be subject to the penalty contained in Subsection D of**  
24                   **this Section if the permittee has taken commercially reasonable methods to**  
25                   **prevent a prohibited player from placing a wager on a sports event on a sports**  
26                   **wagering mechanism or through a mobile application.**

27           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
28           signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
29           by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
2 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument was prepared by Dawn Romero Watson. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Alan Miller.

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## DIGEST

SB 50 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Reese

Present law restricts certain persons from placing a wager on a sports event based on age, location, affiliation with an individual participant or team in the sports event, and other factors. Present law also provides for a uniform compulsive and problem gambling program that allows an individual to request their placement on a list to be excluded from gaming activities at all gaming establishments. In addition, gaming licensees, operators and sports governing bodies typically have various restrictions on the placement of sports wagers by their employees, players and members.

Proposed law creates the crime of a prohibited player placing a wager on a sports event, personally or through another individual or proxy. Provides that it shall also be a crime for a person or entity to facilitate or place a sports wager on behalf of a prohibited player.

Proposed law defines "prohibited player" as a person who is prohibited from placing a wager on a sports event by any of the following:

- (1) The sports wagering chapter in the Louisiana Gaming Control Law or in the correlating Louisiana Administrative Code.
- (2) Participation in a self-restriction or self-exclusion program in accordance with the Louisiana Gaming Control Law or in the correlating Louisiana Administrative Code.
- (3) Any other law, administrative rule, or policy of any jurisdiction, the sports wagering operator, the sports book, or a sports governing body.

Proposed law provides a criminal penalty for a violation of proposed law of a fine not more than \$500, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. On a second and subsequent violation, the penalty shall be a fine of \$1,000, or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

Proposed law provides whoever conducts, finances, manages, supervises, directs, leases, or owns all or part of a business when the person knowingly allows a prohibited player to wager on a sports event shall be fined not more than \$20,000, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than five years, or both.

Proposed law provides that a person, business, or entity licensed, or sports wagering operator permitted, pursuant to the sports wagering law shall not be subject to the penalty if the licensee or permittee has taken commercially reasonable methods to prevent a prohibited player from placing a wager on a sports event in person, on a sports wagering mechanism, or through a mobile application.

Proposed law provides that a sports wagering platform provider permitted by the Louisiana Lottery shall not be subject to the penalty if the permittee has taken commercially reasonable methods to prevent a prohibited player from placing a wager on a sports event on a sports wagering mechanism or through a mobile application.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 14:90.8)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Makes technical change.