

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 149

BY SENATOR TALBOT

GAMING. Requests the Senate Committee on Judiciary B and the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to meet jointly to study iGaming and report study findings to the Louisiana Senate.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Senate Committee on Judiciary B and the Senate Committee on
3 Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to meet jointly to study iGaming and report study
4 findings to the Louisiana Senate.

5 WHEREAS, in November of 2022, the American Gaming Association ("AGA")
6 released the results of a multi-year study entitled "Sizing the Illegal and Unregulated Gaming
7 Markets in the United States"; and

8 WHEREAS, based on the survey of over five thousand Americans on their gaming
9 habits, the AGA determined that Americans annually bet more than five hundred billion
10 dollars with illegal and unregulated operators, costing the regulated gaming industry more
11 than forty billion dollars in revenue and state governments over thirteen billion dollars in tax
12 revenue; and

13 WHEREAS, illegal offshore online casinos take in approximately three hundred forty
14 billion dollars in bets on an annual basis; and

15 WHEREAS, these illegal offshore online casinos prey on vulnerable consumers,
16 offer no commitment to responsible gaming, give no recourse to a better if something goes
17 wrong, encourage money laundering, and generate no tax dollars for the state; and

18 WHEREAS, many of these illegal offshore online casinos deceptively advertise,

1 leading consumers to believe they are gaming legally; and

2 WHEREAS, seven states have addressed the proliferation of illegal offshore online
3 casinos by legalizing iGaming, a legal online platform providing consumers with online slot
4 machines and table games; and

5 WHEREAS, these states have assessed an effective tax rate on gross gaming revenue
6 ranging from fifteen to fifty-seven percent; and

7 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Senate would benefit from a comprehensive study of the
8 potential positive and negative effects of legalizing iGaming in Louisiana from a regulatory
9 and revenue standpoint; and

10 WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Judiciary B has subject matter jurisdiction
11 over the gaming industry; and

12 WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs has subject matter
13 jurisdiction over raising of revenue; and

14 WHEREAS, meeting jointly, the Judiciary B Committee and Revenue and Fiscal
15 Affairs Committee will combine their specific areas of expertise to consider all issues
16 relative to the potential legalization of iGaming.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby urge and request the Senate Committee on Judiciary B and the Senate
19 Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to meet jointly for the purpose of studying
20 iGaming and report study findings to the Louisiana Senate.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee chairs jointly call the first
22 meeting no later than October 1, 2024, and submit a report to the members of the Louisiana
23 Senate and the David R. Poynter Library, as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than
24 March 1, 2025.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
26 chairs of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B and the Senate Committee on Revenue and
27 Fiscal Affairs.

