

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 149

BY SENATOR TALBOT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request 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.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, many of these illegal offshore online casinos deceptively advertise, leading consumers to believe they are gaming legally; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Judiciary B has subject matter jurisdiction

over the gaming industry; and

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE