
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ashley Menou.

DIGEST

SB 322 Original

2018 Regular Session

Martiny

Present law provides that no law authorizing a new form of gaming in any parish shall be effective until approved by a referendum election.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that internet gaming shall not take place in any parish unless internet gaming is approved in a parish by a referendum election.

Proposed law provides that in any parish seeking to authorize internet gaming, there shall be a referendum election on a proposition that shall read "Shall internet gaming be allowed to be conducted within the parish of _____?".

Proposed law defines "internet gaming" as any variation or composite of an authorized game that is offered through the internet, provided that such games, or variations or composites, are found suitable for use by the board and any other game which is determined to be suitable by the board. The term includes gaming tournaments conducted via the internet in which players compete against one another in one or more games authorized by the board or in approved variations or composites thereof if the tournament is authorized by the board.

Proposed law provides that if internet gaming is approved in a parish, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and gaming division of the office of state police shall promulgate all rules necessary to implement, administer, and regulate internet gaming.

Present law provides that the crime of gambling by computer is the intentional conducting, or directly assisting in the conducting as a business of any game, contest, lottery, or contrivance whereby a person risks the loss of anything of value in order to realize a profit when accessing the internet, World Wide Web, or any part thereof by way of any computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, or any server.

Proposed law provides an exception to present law for certain internet gaming. Provides that wagering through the internet by a patron who is over 21 and physically located at the time the wager is placed in a parish that has approved a referendum on internet gaming shall not be considered gambling by computer for the purposes of present law, so long as the wager is placed with a riverboat casino or land-based casino licensed by the La. Gaming Control Board. Proposed law also allows the acceptance of the wager by the licensed riverboat or land-based casino. Defines "patron" as a client who has established a wagering account with a licensed riverboat or land-based casino.

Proposed law provisions regarding the referendum election become effective July 1, 2018.

Proposed law provisions regarding the exceptions to present law to allow internet gaming in certain parishes becomes effective January 1, 2020.

(Adds R.S. 27:4 and R.S. 14:90.3(J))