

Regular Session, 2013

Approved
5-15-13

HOUSE CONCURRENT STUDY REQUEST NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUVAL

GAMING: Requests a study of the feasibility and practicality of authorizing Internet gaming in La.

1 A CONCURRENT STUDY REQUEST

2 To the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate
3 Committee on Judiciary B to meet and to function as a joint committee to study the
4 feasibility and practicality of authorizing Internet gaming in Louisiana and to report
5 the findings of the joint committee to the legislature prior to the convening of the
6 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

7 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature from 1990 through 1992 authorized
8 several forms of gaming, including gaming upon riverboats along designated
9 waterways, gaming at a land-based casino, the operation of video draw poker
10 devices, and the conducting of a state lottery; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1997 the Louisiana Legislature authorized slot machine
12 gaming at eligible live horse racing facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, during the past twenty-three years, the gaming industry has
14 contributed \$14.3 billion to the state budget; and

15 WHEREAS, revenues generated from the gaming industry make up six
16 percent of state generated revenue for 2013; and

17 WHEREAS, since its inception, the gaming industry in Louisiana has been
18 strictly regulated to provide for a controlled gaming industry which is designed to
19 promote economic development and protect the citizens of the state; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1997 Louisiana enacted the crime of gambling by computer
21 and prohibited the conducting of any game, contest, lottery, or contrivance whereby

1 a person risks the loss of any thing of value in order to realize a profit when
2 accessing the Internet and despite the passage of this law, many websites exist where
3 Louisiana citizens can participate in Internet gaming activities; and

4 WHEREAS, in the seventeen years since the crime of gambling by computer
5 was created both technology and the use of the Internet have flourished, resulting in
6 the ability to conduct gaming activities through the use of a computer or mobile
7 device; and

8 WHEREAS, many Internet gaming opportunities occur outside the borders of
9 the United States with no safeguards regarding the integrity of the games or protection
10 of those persons who wager on those games; and

11 WHEREAS, Delaware passed legislation authorizing Internet gaming in June
12 of 2012, and both Nevada and New Jersey passed similar legislation in February of
13 this year to legalize Internet gaming; and

14 WHEREAS, within a nine-month period, three states have legalized Internet
15 gaming; and

16 WHEREAS, Louisiana has the potential to benefit economically by legalizing
17 Internet gaming; and

18 WHEREAS, by establishing a regulatory framework to authorize Internet
19 gaming in Louisiana, the integrity of the games could be ensured and potential
20 additional revenue sources could be realized.

21 THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana requests the House Committee on
22 the Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary B to
23 meet and to function as a joint committee to study the feasibility and practicality of
24 authorizing Internet gaming in Louisiana and to report the findings of the joint
25 committee to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session of the
26 Legislature of Louisiana.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the joint committee shall seek input from
28 the office of the governor, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board, the office of state
29 police gaming division, the gaming division of the office of the attorney general, the
30 gaming industry, and any other parties deemed appropriate by the committee.

DIGEST

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Huval

HCSR No. 1

Requests that the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary B meet as a joint committee to study the feasibility and practicality of authorizing Internet gaming in La., and to report the findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2014 R.S.