

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Sonja Caldwell 271-2117

SB 120-FN, relative to charitable gaming license applications, wages, stakes, and bonds.

Hearing Date: January 25, 2023

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Lang, Murphy and Rosenwald

Members of the Committee Absent : Senators D'Allesandro and Innis

Bill Analysis: This bill makes numerous changes to definitions relating to games of chance, the license application process for operators and charities, the regulation of games of chance, wager amounts, reporting requirements, and what constitutes theft by deception.

Sponsors:

Sen. Lang
Rep. Moffett

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Gannon

Who supports the bill: Rick Newman (NH Charitable Gaming Operators Assoc.), Mike McLaughlin (Wyoming Downs), Sen. Lang, Giovanna Bonilla (BBCRC), Sen. Pearl

Who opposes the bill: no one

Who is neutral on the bill: Charlie McIntyre (NH Lottery)

Summary of testimony presented:

Sen. Lang

- This bill does several things. First, it increases a license from one year to three years to cut down on red tape for the Lottery Commission and the game operators. In doing so, he said the bill did not increase fees for the three-year license.
- Second, the bill increases bonding.
- It also increases the wagers, buy-in, and tournament top end.
- The bill increases from \$10 to \$50 any given wager.
- It increases the buy-in from \$150 to \$250.
- It increases a tournament up to \$2,500.
- One of the reasons for doing this is because workforce is an issue. The ability for gaming operators to raise wages for their employees is capped by the amount of money they bring in.
- By raising wagers, he anticipates it will create a new gross handle, which allows the gaming operator to have more operating revenue to increase employees' wages.
- This will also benefit the charities by increasing the amount of money that can be bet.

- This is not mandatory.
- Charitable gaming operators will adjust based on the night.
- With regard to bonding, if we increase wagers and revenue, each operator has a bond cap ratioed on the amount of money they take in. This raises that bond to \$1 million.
- Sen. Lang offered an amendment (0093s) to the bill. Lines 16 and 17 on the last page of the bill talk about the HHR moratorium. The amendment removes that from the bill as it is dealt with in another bill.

Rick Newman – NH Charitable Gaming Operators Assoc

- Supports the bill.
- He described the bill as mostly housekeeping measures.
- They support the amendment.
- He also wants to amend the effective date. He would like it be upon passage.
- The tournament buy-in amounts were established in 2006 and have not been increased since.
- Poker is very popular. People travel to participate in it. In New England we compete with Foxwoods, Encore, and others that can offer larger buy-in tournaments.
- They appreciate the three-year license. A secondary operator is basically a dealer and every single year they have to get fingerprinted and get a criminal background check and that is cumbersome. The bill does still require that each year, everyone must still file a form with the Lottery Commission to state if anything has changed.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 25, 2023