

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB6

Hearing Date: Monday February 04, 2013
Committee On: General Affairs
Introducer: Krist
One Liner: Create the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Bloomfield, Coash, Johnson, Karpisek, Krist, Lautenbaugh, Murante
Nay:		
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Schilz

Proponents:

Sen. Bob Krist
Vickie McDonald
David Geier
Jerry Bauerkemper
Dr. Dennis McNeilly
Janelle Holt

Representing:

Introducer
self
self
Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling
self
State Committee on Problem Gambling

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Section 3(1) of LB 6 establishes the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling, consisting of 9 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature.

Section 3(2): The Commissioners would be from a variety of backgrounds including:

- a) Medical care or mental health expertise
- b) Banking and finance expertise
- c) Legal expertise
- d) Education expertise
- e) Consumers of problem gambling services (2 members)
- f) Data analysis expertise
- g) Nebraska residents (2 members)

For each appointment, the General Affairs Committee will present the Governor with a list of 6 names to choose from.

Section 3(3): The Governor would make the appointments when the Legislature is not in session and those terms would only last until the next session when the Legislature could approve or disapprove the appointments.

Section 3(4): The Commissioners' terms are for three years, which will begin when the Governor makes his initial appointments 30 days after the effective date of this act. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy would only serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 4(1): The Commission shall appoint a member as chairperson. Commissioners shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses in carrying out their duties.

Section 4(2): The Commission shall develop guidelines and standards for the operation of the Gamblers Assistance Program and shall direct the distribution and disbursement of money in the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund.

Section 4(3): The Commission shall appoint a director of the Gamblers Assistance Program and provide administrative support. The director will be responsible for any staff and must provide an annual report to the General Affairs Committee. All documents belonging to the State Committee on Problem Gambling will become the property of the Commission.

Section 4(4): The Commission shall establish a process for evaluating and approving provider applications and contracts funded under the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund and come up with standards for training and certifying problem gambling counselors.

Section 4(5): The Commission shall provide for the review and use of evaluation data, funds for educational purposes, and specifically outreach programs.

Section 4(6): A catchall provision authorizing the Commission to engage in other activities as necessary to fulfill its duties.

Section 4(7): The Commission shall submit in electronic form a report to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature within 60 days from the end of the fiscal year.

Section 5: The Gamblers Assistance Program is created. The Program shall:

Section 5(1) Contract with providers for treatment services for Nebraskans.

Section 5(2) Promote public awareness of problem gambling and the treatment options.

Section 5(3) Evaluate the existence and scope of problem gambling.

Section 5(4) A catchall provision to fulfill the commission's directives.

Section 6: Strikes language and clarifies that the commission will administer the fund and not the division, and removes the role of the State Committee on Problem Gambling in making recommendations for treatment. It also removes the provision capping administrative costs at 10 percent of the money appropriated to the fund.

Section 7(1): Prohibits the Division of Behavioral Health or the Department of Health and Human Services from authorizing any non-contract expenditures until the Gamblers Assistance Program is created.

Section 7(2): Any existing contracts between the State of Nebraska and a provider would still be honored as of the effective date of this act and will remain in effect unless terminated with 30 days notice or is re-negotiated.

Section 7(3): The Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall not be subject to any non-statutory limitations.

Section 8(6): The office of the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling shall be located within the division and the division will provide the office supplies. The Commission's director shall be responsible for the staff.

Russ Karpisek, Chairperson