

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6944

BILL NUMBER: HB 1470

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 30, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Apr 26, 2003

SUBJECT: Gaming Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Whetstone

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Riegsecker

BILL STATUS: Enrolled

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (CCR Amended) The bill authorizes the Indiana Gaming Commission to adopt rules to implement a voluntary exclusion program for problem gamblers. The bill increases the maximum civil penalty that may be imposed upon gaming suppliers from \$5,000 to \$25,000. It requires the Division of Mental Health and Addiction to reimburse the Commission for the costs incurred administering the voluntary exclusion program. The bill also requires the Division to pay the reimbursement from funds received from the Riverboat Admissions Tax.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Voluntary Exclusion Program:* The Indiana Gaming Commission (IGC) may incur some additional cost arising from administration of the voluntary exclusion program. The bill requires the Division of Mental Health and Addiction to reimburse the IGC for this administrative cost from Riverboat Admission Tax revenue distributed to the Division. Under current law, the Division's annual Admission Tax distribution is fixed at the FY 2002 level of approximately \$4.2 M.

The bill requires the Commission to adopt rules to implement a voluntary exclusion program for problem gamblers. The program allows individuals to put themselves on a statewide list of people who want to be excluded from Riverboat gambling facilities. The list would be administered by the Commission and only disseminated to Riverboat owners for enforcement purposes. As a result, this program could result in additional cost to the Commission relating to enforcement, postage, printing, and other administrative activities. Currently, Illinois and Missouri operate voluntary exclusion programs similar to that outlined in the bill. The program in Illinois began in July 2002, so data regarding its cost and effectiveness are not yet available. The Missouri voluntary exclusion program was initiated in 1996. Through June 2002, about 4,400

individuals have voluntarily excluded themselves from riverboat casinos in Missouri. In 2001 and the first six months of 2002, voluntary exclusion applications totaled about 115 per month. The cost of enforcement in Missouri is reportedly negligible because these activities are conducted by State Highway Patrol officers who are already assigned to investigative and law enforcement activities at the casinos. No information has been made available as to the postage, printing, and other administrative costs incurred by Missouri in the conduct of its voluntary exclusion program.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Suppliers Civil Penalties:* The bill changes the maximum civil penalty that the IGC may impose on licensed suppliers who violate provisions of the gaming laws. Under current statute, the IGC may impose a civil penalty on a licensed supplier of not more than \$5,000 for each violation. The bill would increase this maximum to \$25,000 per violation. While this provision could potentially increase the amount of civil penalties against licensed suppliers, the impact is indeterminable and depends on the frequency of violations and on specific actions of the IGC. No civil penalties were imposed on licensed suppliers in 2000; one civil penalty of \$1,000 was imposed on one licensed supplier during 2001; and one civil penalty of \$5,000 was imposed on one licensed supplier in 2002. Money from civil penalties imposed by the IGC is deposited in the State Gaming Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Gaming Commission.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Jennifer Arnold, Indiana Gaming Commission (317) 233-0046. Melissa Stevens, Missouri Gaming Commission, (573) 522-1373. Missouri Gaming Commission 2002 Annual Report, Problem Gambling, <http://www.mgc.state.mo.us>. Illinois Gaming Board, Self-Exclusion Program for Problem Gamblers, <http://www.igb.state.il.us>.

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