

HCS HB 3533 -- THE MISSOURI GAMING COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Knight

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 7, with 1 voting Present.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 3533.

This bill gives the State Gaming Commission the power to annually adjust the admission fee imposed under Section 313.820, RSMo, for inflation.

The bill changes the current fee of \$2 to \$5.50 for every two hours that the person is within the gambling area of each gambling facility and specifies how the admission fee will be distributed. Within the first two months of each calendar year, the Commission will determine what the new admission fee will be for the new fiscal year. Such fee shall be calculated initially on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Midwest Region, as defined and recorded by the United States Department of Labor, for the remainder of fiscal year 2027 and for the next 10 complete fiscal years.

In all present and future forms of remote wagering, an excursion gambling boat licensee must pay a remote wagering access fee of 1.5% of the total wagers in a month in lieu of an admission fee. The proceeds of this fee will be deposited to the Gaming Commission Fund. This Fund will be distributed according to the Commission, except that the first \$35 million will be deposited to the Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Revolving Fund.

This bill also imposes additional taxes on gross receipts from gambling games. There will be a tax imposed on the adjusted gross receipts received from certain gambling games at 13%. The taxes imposed will be returned to the Commission in accordance with the Commission's rules and regulations, who will then transfer those taxes to the Director of the Department of Revenue.

Current law specifies how certain portions of remaining net proceeds in the Gaming Commission Fund can be transferred, accounting for the first \$12 million. This bill provides that the next \$15 million will be transferred to the Missouri

Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Revolving Fund for the purpose of preserving and protecting collections of historic artifacts.

This bill is similar to SB 1432 and HB 2919 (2026).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this deals with loss of revenue. It raises taxes on casinos and it increases the fees these casinos can charge. The current fee is the original fee so this has not been addressed in a very long time.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Knight.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the admission fee is increasing dramatically and it increases with a CPI increase. The legislature passes very few things with a CPI increase. The gaming industry will manage the loss of revenue. The legislature cannot really pass anything related to sports betting without amending the Constitution. There is another increase in the gaming tax that will affect the gaming industry, too. It increases the tax from 21% to 34%. The fee collection has been declining and it is likely due to video lottery terminals so there should be an increase in the admission fee collection once those are addressed. The admission fee is paid by the casino every time a person goes through the turnstile.

Testifying in person against the bill were MO Gaming Association; Missouri Chamber; and Arnie C. Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.