



State of Colorado

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

(Please Note: Requests will become public upon final approval of the requesting legislator. Working drafts are considered work product. It is assumed the Legislative Council Staff and the Office of Legislative Legal Services will provide staff support for any approved interim committees and legislative members will receive per diem and reimbursement of expenses. Prior to approval, the Legislative Council may modify the nature and scope of the interim study committee requested. Approved interim study committees are subject to Joint Rule 24A, Interim Committee Requirements – Voting Requirements – Electronic Participation.)

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Representative Lee
With support of: Representative Primavera

Re: Request for interim study committee regarding the treatment of problem gambling

Date: 04/10/2015

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study the treatment of problem gambling during the interim between the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "Problem Gambling Interim Study Committee."

Scope of the policy issues to be studied. The interim study committee would study the following policy issues:

- a. the need for and the provision of gambling addiction counseling services to Colorado residents pursuant to Section 12-47.1-1601, C.R.S.;
- b. analyses and breakdowns of total gaming impact revenues and how they are distributed and spent;
- c. analyses of gaming impact revenues in other states and how much funding is provided to address gambling addiction in other states;

- d. assessments of:
 - i. the amount of money required to meet the need for counseling that is determined to exist; and
 - ii. the prevalence of gambling addiction, including data identifying the scope and breadth of the problem of gambling addiction, an estimate of the number of people who are addicted to gambling in Colorado, the number who could benefit from addiction counseling, and which forms of gambling contribute most to that prevalence; and
- e. issues related to the effectiveness of the Gambling Addiction Counseling Services Grant Program, including:
 - i. an analysis of the availability of gambling addiction counseling services for Colorado residents statewide;
 - ii. the number of new, certified counselors who have entered the field as a result of the grant program;
 - iii. whether the amount of grants to addiction counselors who are actively pursuing national accreditation as gambling addiction counselors should be specified by statute, and whether, in order to qualify for an accreditation grant, an addiction counselor applicant should be required to enter into a contract in which the applicant commits to either remain in Colorado and provide gambling addiction counseling services for at least two years after obtaining national accreditation or repay the grant with statutory interest if the applicant fails to meet the two-year requirement;
 - iv. the number of clients served;
 - v. the geographic location of clients served;
 - vi. the effectiveness of the services provided; and
 - vii. a detailed analysis of the overall effectiveness of the grant program; and
- f. the Office of the State Auditor audit on the Limited Gaming Impact Fund that is scheduled to be released on September 1, 2015.

The interim study committee would make specific recommendations about:

- a. the appropriate level of funding that should be allocated to the Gambling Addiction Account within the Limited Gaming Impact Fund and appropriate sources of such additional funding, including limited gaming, lottery, and racing proceeds;
- b. whether the Department of Human Services should enter into an agreement with a contractor to facilitate the administration of the Gambling Addiction Counseling Services Grant Program;
- c. whether, and to what extent, grants should be awarded to local and regional behavioral health organizations and community mental health centers;

- d. ways to ensure that gambling addiction counseling services are available to Colorado residents statewide; and
- e. statutory or regulatory modifications to the Gambling Addiction Counseling Services Grant Program.

Committee meeting requirements and structure. The interim study committee would need to meet **5 times** to study the aforementioned issues. The interim study committee would like to conduct one meeting outside of the Denver metropolitan area to visit a casino, counselor training facility, or treatment facility for purpose of making needed decisions. The interim study committee will need **5 bills** to address the issues it studies.

The interim study committee should consist of a total of **12 members**, of which **6 members should be members of the General Assembly**, who should be appointed as follows:

- 3 members of the Senate, with 2 appointed by the President of the Senate and 1 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and
- 3 members of the House of Representatives, with 2 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and 1 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

In addition to the 6 legislative members, 6 nonlegislative members should be appointed to the interim study committee. The nonlegislative members on the interim study committee will be nonvoting members. These agencies and entities are important to the overall conversation and helping to analyze the needs in this issue area, and will participate in the gathering of information, discussion of relevant issues surrounding the objective of the interim study committee, and helping to determine the program needs and set goals and objectives for moving forward. The six nonlegislative members shall be appointed as follows:

- the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services or his or her designee;
- the Executive Director of the Department of Revenue or his or her designee;
- a representative of the Colorado Lottery Commission, as appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- a representative of the gaming industry, as appointed by the President of the Senate;
- a representative of the racing industry, as appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- a gambling addiction treatment provider, as appointed by the President of the Board of Directors of the Problem Gambling Coalition of Colorado.

The chair of the interim study committee should be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the vice-chair should be appointed by the President of the Senate. The appointments to the interim study committee must be made by July 1, 2015.

A task force is not necessary to assist the interim study committee.

Other Information Related to the Interim Study Committee

In addition to the legislative service agencies, the following agencies may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee: Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Human Services, Department of Local Affairs, Department of Revenue, Colorado Gaming Commission, and State Historical Society.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.