STATE OF NEW YORK

1978

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 18, 2019

Introduced by Sen. ADDABBO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering

AN ACT in relation to establishing the legislative task force on responsible gaming

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Legislative findings. a. The legislature hereby finds that the 2012-2013 New York state budget amended the state constitution to allow for non-tribal casino gaming in New York. It also included provisions to create a New York state gaming commission, as a result of the merger between the division of lottery and the racing and wagering board. The commission is charged with oversight of the division of lottery, the division of charitable gaming, the division of gaming, and the division of horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering. This legislative action consolidated the state's gaming regulatory functions under a single oversight body.

b. The legislature further finds that the development of policies and procedures that foster responsible gaming practices by gaming facilities licensed or enfranchised by the New York state gaming commission or its divisions is necessary to mitigate the risks or consequences associated with problem gambling. The legislature concludes that this can be best accomplished by the creation of a task force on responsible gaming.

§ 2. Legislative task force on responsible gaming. A legislative task force on responsible gaming is hereby established to:

(a) Identify policies and programs that mitigate the risks and consequences associated with compulsive gambling and promote responsible gaming practices for all gaming activities authorized in New York state.

(b) Recommend policies and procedures to be promulgated in regulations by the New York state gaming commission and its divisions to ensure

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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responsible gaming in all facilities licensed or enfranchised by such commission or divisions.

(c) Recommend a structure by which all responsible gaming regulations promulgated by the commission or its divisions shall be enforced, including but not limited to penalties for violations of regulatory standards and corrective action.

(d) Identifying methods to measure effectiveness of any responsible gaming procedures implemented.

(e) Identify and recommend provisions necessary to ensure responsible gaming practices to be included in enabling legislation authorizing casino style gaming facilities in New York state.

§ 3. Composition. The task force shall consist of eleven members. Task force members appointed or designated shall have experience and expertise in one or more of the following areas:

1) the prevention of problem gambling;

2) the treatment of problem gambling;

3) administration of problem gambling programs within a gaming facility.

The task force shall consist of eleven members to be appointed as follows: two members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly, one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly, two members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, and one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate. The task force shall also include the commissioner of the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services or his or her designee, the executive director of the New York state gaming commission or his or her designee, the director of the division of lottery or his or her designee, the director of the division of gaming or his or her designee, the director of the division of horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering or his or her designee. The chair shall be designated by a simple majority vote of all members of the task force.

§ 4. Compensation. Members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of any of their duties.

§ 5. Report. The task force shall create a final report regarding all findings and recommendations to be delivered upon completion of all objectives described herein, but in no event later than February 1, 2020, to the governor, the speaker of the assembly and the temporary president of the senate. At the completion of all duties described herein the legislative task force shall be dissolved.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.