
From: David Lambert [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: SB 201

I am writing today to thank you for your finance committee hearing SB 201 USE OF INTERNET FOR CHARITABLE GAMING, and to offer support with no amendments.

The long overdue allowance of the use of the internet for the conduct of charitable gaming in Alaska benefits every recipient of non-profit services across our state. From youth-sports, to veterans, and the alleviation of suffering, from education and health resources to every gap in our lives that Alaska's non-profits provide. The State has long recognized the work our charities do to provide services the state budget cannot afford. It was with this in mind that the Charitable Gaming Act was designed, and it is time for this act to catch up with the times.

A special allowance was added this year for the conduct of gaming online. This was brought due to the pandemic response circumstances, which prohibited the usual distribution of raffle and lottery tickets. Put simply, we just couldn't meet people in person to make the sales, and the State knew that they relied on the services we provide, so they made an exception.

It is vital to make this change permanent. The Permittees & Operators have demonstrated that this program works, and that there is no need to further constrain our efforts. We have proven that we can be accountable through this system, and we would argue now, that it may be the only way some of us will survive to continue to do our good work.

Alaska's conservation and sportsmen's groups led the charge on this initiation and ensured its continuance in the emergency declarations through direct communications with the Governor's Office, but the change benefitted all recipients of gaming funds, and the people receiving their services. We are grateful for your recognition of the importance to Alaska's communities this legislation brings.

There is currently other charitable gaming bills that are not supported by the charitable gaming industry at this time. They are SB 130 electronic pulltabs and HB 385 sports betting. Please do not allow these to be piggybacked on this bill. Under their current form they would do harm to the charitable gaming industry.

Thank you
David Lambert

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Thor Stacey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 12:22 AM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Cc: Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Mike Cronk; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Ronald Gillham; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. James Kaufman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Kevin McCabe; Rep. Ken McCarty; Rep. Thomas McKay; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. David Nelson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Josiah Patkotak; Rep. Mike Prax; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. George Rauscher; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Laddie Shaw; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky
Subject: Support- Use of Internet For Charitable Gaming - HB128/SB201

Good Evening Honorable Representatives:

I write on behalf of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) and the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (AKWSF) both of whom I represent as a contract lobbyist. APHA/AKWSF raise money using their charitable gaming permits to support wildlife conservation in Alaska. The APHA and AKWSF are both currently using the internet to sell raffle tickets as allowed by last year's passage of HB76 (disaster declaration). My clients are not alone, charitable organizations across the state have expressed support for this common sense reform. Charitable gaming reform is needed because the current statutes were drafted and adopted before the internet or at least before it was a viable tool for commerce.

Key Aspects of HB128/SB201:

- Allows for online sale of raffle and derby tickets
- Requires gaming activity occur in the state of Alaska (sale, drawing of tickets etc.)
- Incorporates important protections when the purchaser is out of state (certified legality, contest is held in Alaska)

I would like to highlight one other issue briefly. A couple of weeks ago the APHA decided to put together a raffle for the benefit of organizations in Europe helping with the Ukrainian refugee crisis. But when they read AS 05.15.150 it is clear that use of proceeds must occur in state. These are certainly special times and the crisis in Europe has deeply impacted us all. Supporters of HB128/SB201 have brought up the issue of using proceeds to help refugees with the bill sponsors as well as a few other legislators hoping there might be a discreet fix. While my clients do not support throwing the door open broadly to use proceeds out of state they are supportive of some legal mechanism that will allow Alaska's non-profit sector to raise money to help with the humanitarian crisis in Europe.

Sincerely,

Thor Stacey
[REDACTED]

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From: Sandra Powers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 8:19 PM
Subject: John & Sandy Powers SUPPORT SB 201 & HB 128 without any amendments

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion about SB 201 & HB 128. "Use of Internet for Charitable Gaming". The Alaska Charitable Gaming Alliance and John Powers from Tudor Bingo and Sandy Powers from Big Valley Bingo are in SUPPORT of these companion bills.

These bills allow for the continuation of Charitable Gaming Raffles online. Think about the Iditarod Raffles and Nenana Ice Classic ticket sales, etc. Many Charities have utilized the internet during COVID and have found great success with sales for their Charities.

We do not want any amendments to the bill, such as sports betting or any out of state charities, lotteries or other out of state interests.

We do not support Sports betting, online betting, or other expansion of gambling in Alaska.

We do not support SB 130 - Electronic Pull Tabs. Although it is true that for a few years, the Charities will benefit from increased revenues, the volume of pull tab sales will have to triple or quadruple for them to realize the benefits. It looks like a slot machine, acts like a slot machine, and will bring all of the social problems of slot machines to Alaska. But you will hear more on that at a future time

John Powers
[REDACTED]
Sandy Powers
[REDACTED]

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

May 2, 2022

Representative Kelly Merrick, Co-Chair
Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 124
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: **SUPPORT** for Alaska Charitable Gaming Statutory Changes - SB 201 AM

Dear Representatives Merrick and Foster:

On behalf of the National Rifle Association (NRA), I am writing to express strong support for the proposed changes to the Alaska Charitable Gaming Regulations (SB 201) allowing online raffle sales, sales to those unable to physically attend charity events, and user self-verification. These changes will greatly benefit non-profit organizations both financially and functionally. These benefits have the potential to result in greater service to the public while providing an economic boost to Alaska's local communities.

The NRA is the nation's oldest civil rights organization. The NRA's Institute for Legislative Action (ILA) is the lobbying arm of the NRA, committed to preserving the right of all law-abiding individuals to purchase, possess and use firearms for legitimate purposes as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In addition to the NRA's core political advocacy efforts, the NRA works through the NRA Hunters' Leadership Forum (HLF) to address the cultural, political, demographic and technological challenges to hunting's future in the 21st century. The HLF marches in step with the NRA's objectives by working: "to promote hunter safety, and to promote and defend hunting as a shooting sport and as a viable and necessary method of fostering the propagation, growth, conservation and wise use of our renewable wildlife resources."

In addition to the NRA's advocacy and education programs, the NRA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity, teaches freedom through programs that instill knowledge about our nation's great history. The NRA Foundation builds partnerships with leaders in our communities and provides grants that are instrumental in funding programs that support our shared vision. Since the NRA Foundation's establishment in 1990, it has awarded more than \$457 million in grant funding in support of the shooting sports. These grants provide essential funding that benefits programs such as youth education, law enforcement training, hunter education, conservation, firearms and marksmanship training and safety, and much more. According to the Alaska Department of

Revenue – Tax Division, in 2019 the NRA Foundation was the top beneficiary of charitable gaming in the state, demonstrating Alaskans’ strong support for NRA’s programs and mission.

SB 201 provides advantages for Alaska’s non-profit organizations, like the NRA Foundation – changing Charitable Gaming Regulations to continue to allow online raffle sales originally enabled via emergency legislation during COVID restrictions that are otherwise set to expire. This will result in very distinct advantages for non-profits including:

- Providing Access to a Broader Audience: allows those who could not normally participate in raffles and events to participate
 - Increasing Efficiency: no longer dependent upon volunteers to sell tickets. Automating this process reduces costs and volunteer hours.
 - Adapting to Changing Norms: increasingly people prefer to buy online
 - Security of Financial Transactions: Online sales eliminates direct handling of credit card information
 - Better Tracking of Sales Data: online sales help eliminate data handling errors and makes data instantly available and reportable - benefits business and facilitates regulatory compliance
 - Increasing Grant Dollars to Qualified Groups and Activities in Alaska: since 2001, the NRA Foundation has provided over \$6 million in grants in the state of Alaska.
 - Continuously Markets Alaska: through our raffle sales we are directly and indirectly marketing Alaska

On behalf of the tens of thousands of members of the National Rifle Association across Alaska, I respectfully urge your support of SB 201.

Sincerely,

Aoibheann Cline

Aoibheann Cline, Esq.
State Director
NRA-ILA