

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KOTT

Introduced: 5/9/05

Referred: Special Order of Business

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing the House Task Force on Alaska Gaming Policy to consider the**
2 **establishment of a gaming commission and study gaming activities in the state; and**
3 **providing for a report of the findings to the Alaska Legislative Council.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

5 **WHEREAS** gaming activities allowed by the State of Alaska need additional
6 oversight to protect the public; and

7 **WHEREAS** the legislature wishes to ensure that all games of chance and contests of
8 skill are operated fairly; and

9 **WHEREAS** the legislature has authorized over 22 types of games of chance and
10 contests of skill, including ice classics, raffles, fish derbies, rain classics, pull-tabs, dog
11 mushing, and bingo games; and

12 **WHEREAS** the people of the state have enjoyed recreational gaming activities since
13 the first pioneers came to the "Last Frontier," and a bill authorizing gaming activities was
14 passed by the very first Alaska State Legislature; and

15 **WHEREAS** the proceeds from authorized gaming activity in Alaska exceed

1 \$358,000,000 annually; and

2 **WHEREAS** nonprofit organizations in the state benefit by receiving income
3 amounting to approximately \$85,000,000 from gaming revenue; and

4 **WHEREAS** 1,200 nonprofit organizations with permits depend on gaming to fund
5 their good work to benefit Alaskans; and

6 **WHEREAS** a majority of the people of the state participate in reasonable gaming
7 activities; and

8 **WHEREAS** citizens of the state are preparing initiatives that propose additional
9 legalized gaming activity; and

10 **WHEREAS** the legislature finds and determines that it is in the public interest to have
11 controlled and well managed gaming in the state to protect the public; and

12 **WHEREAS** the legislature finds that most states with legalized gaming have a
13 gaming commission; and

14 **WHEREAS** a gaming commission monitors, regulates, and enforces gaming laws for
15 the public benefit;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives establishes in the legislative
17 branch the House Task Force on Alaska Gaming Policy to research and make
18 recommendations to the legislature relating to the pros and cons of establishing a gaming
19 commission; if a gaming commission is recommended, the composition and responsibilities
20 of the gaming commission; the gaming activities to be permitted; and other findings before
21 January 1, 2006; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of Representatives is
23 respectfully requested to appoint to the task force

24 (1) three representatives from the House of Representatives, including at least
25 one member from the minority;

26 (2) one member from the Department of Revenue;

27 (3) one member from the Alaska hospitality industry;

28 (4) one member from charitable nonprofit organizations who receive income
29 from gaming activities;

30 (5) one member who has a permit to operate under AS 05.15.122; and

31 (6) two members of the general public; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Legislative Council shall provide
2 reasonably necessary administrative services to the task force upon request of the task force;
3 and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House members are entitled to their normal rates of
5 per diem and travel and that the members who are not employed by the state are not entitled
6 to per diem; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force established under this resolution is
8 terminated January 30, 2006.