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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

POUCH S
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: (907) 465-2300

January 19, 1982

The Honorable Terry Martin
Chairman
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Room 211 - Behrends Building
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Martin:

Re: House Bill No. 623

House Bill No. 623, an Act relating to games of chance and contests of skill, was introduced in the House on January 11, 1982, and was referred to the House Labor & Commerce and Judiciary Committees.

For consideration of the House Labor & Commerce Committee, I am enclosing a copy of a Fiscal Note prepared by Mr. Ervin B. Jones, Supervisor, Audit Division, Department of Revenue, concerning the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

R. D. Stevenson
Special Assistant

RDS:jas

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Ramona L. Barnes
Chairwoman
House Judiciary Committee

Joseph K. Donohue
Deputy Commissioner, Taxation
Department of Revenue

Ervin B. Jones, Supervisor
Audit Division
Department of Revenue

I. REQUEST
 Bill/Resolution No. HB 623
 Title An Act relating to games of chance and contests of skill; and
~~Requested by~~ providing for an effective date Date January 18, 1982
 Requested by: House Labor and Commerce Committee

II. FISCAL DETAIL
 Agency Affected Department of Revenue
 Program Category Affected Revenue Collection and Management
 BRU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected Audit Division
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars) None

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL						

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars) None

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS None

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						


III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instruction, Section III)

See attached memo to R. D. Stevenson dated January 18, 1982.

IV. DATE January 18, 1982 PREPARED BY Ervin B. Jones
 AGENCY Audit Division
 Original: Legislative Finance PHONE 465-2320
 cc: Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)
 33-001 (Rev. 12/81)

R.D. Stevenson
Legislative Assistant

January 18, 1982


Ervin Jones
Office Audit Manager
Audit Division

HB 623
(Labor and Commerce)

This bill proposes to amend three sections of AS 05.15.

The effect of these proposed changes is to considerably broaden the privileges granted with the issuance of a games of chance and skill permit. The original language of AS 05.15.100 limited the games of chance to only those activities listed (i.e., bingo, raffles, lotteries, ice classics, rain classics, dog mushers' contests and fish derbies). New games of chance would have to then be allowed under one of those listed. The proposed language removes that limitation and taken in context with sections 2 and 3 of the bill, would allow any game of chance which could be contrived where the element of chance and luck is foremost, regardless of whether those games of chance existed in Alaska prior to statehood. Since the original intent of the legislation was to permit continuance of those gaming activities after statehood which existed in territorial days, this change is a considerable divergence.

The only remaining limitation would be the limitation on use of gambling implements found in AS 05.15.180(a). This would presumably prevent the introduction of casino type hardware and coin operated video games as games of chance, but would not prevent the legal introduction of games of chance such as can be contrived by profit-seeking individuals and nonprofit organizations striving to maximize their take in an extremely competitive industry. Additionally, this bill would allow for large scale betting as it imposes no limitation on the allowable charge to participate in a pull-tab game. With no limit, and given the competitive nature of the industry, the prizes and charges to participate can be expected to escalate.

If the author's intent is simply to legalize pull-tabs, I would recommend this bill to legal counsel to arrive at a simpler way of accomplishing that goal without opening Pandora's box.

EJ:jg