

SB

370

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE BILL NO. 370

Senate Bill 370 gives authorization to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to license cruise ships to conduct gambling outside of three nautical miles of state ports. Casino gambling on cruise ships has been a well established practice for over twenty years, but state laws prohibit the practice on waters under state jurisdiction. By allowing limited gambling activities on these waters, the state benefits from the collection of annual licensing fees of \$5,000. to \$15,000. depending on the size of the ship. Casino gambling on cruise ships has no impact whatsoever on Alaskan communities, and polled residents have approved of the established cruise ship gambling by a significant majority (more than 5 to 1). In the interest of taking advantage of this potential source of revenue, I urge your support of SB 370.

SECTIONAL SUMMARY

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Section 1(a) - Authorizes the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to license cruise ships to conduct gambling in the offshore water of the state upon application for permit and payment of annual licensing fee.

Section 1(b) - Establishes fee schedule for licensing.

Section 1(c) - Exempts cruise ships from other provisions of chapter.

Section 1(d) - Establishes that the department shall revoke a license in cases of ineligibility, provision of false information, or violation of provisions set forth in Section 2 of the bill.

Section 1(e) - Gives "cruise ship" and "offshore water of the state" meaning as set forth in Section 2 of the bill.

Section 2(a) - Establishes that prohibitions on gambling do not apply to cruise ships if the following criteria are met:

- (1) the cruise ship is licensed,
- (2) the cruise ship is three nautical miles from the nearest port visited by the cruise ship, and
- (3) the main purpose of the cruise is something other than gambling.

Section 2(b) - Defines "cruise ship" and "offshore water of the state".