

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs
For HB 1942

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:56 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 22, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Tim Shinogle
Self
ARLINGTON, TX

As a concerned citizen, in my community and state, I urge all state legislators to oppose any legislation that would promote or support the expansion of gambling in the state of Texas. Gambling does not provide additional revenue, as the impact on citizens and communities will be negative due to additional crime, addictions and domestic issues. Although the state may receive some revenue, the vast majority of profits will be siphoned off to out of state license holders. I am opposed to this bill and request that each of you vote it down.

Judith McAllister, MS\
N/A
Fort Wroth, TX

I am adamantly against HB 1942 and HJR 97

Pam Shinogle
Self
ARLINGTON, TX

I am opposed to any legislation, especially this proposed bill that would encourage the expansion of gambling in the state of Texas. I urge each member to vote no on this bill.

Patricia Menikos
Self retired
Corsicana, TX

I am opposed to these Bills. I believe gambling will increase human and drug trafficking in our State. I also am opposed because it encourages reckless and impulsive behavior that is damaging to (Texas) families. The "income for good uses" is a fallacy--any income would allow government to grow into new divisions and more regulations; and continued abusive spending contrary to the values of most citizens.

Tim Menikos
Self
Corsicana, TX

I believe these two pieces of legislation are relating to the legalization of gambling in the State of Texas, and if so, I wish to oppose the legalization of gambling in Texas.

There are enough places for Texas residents to go to gamble if they do desire, but gambling establishments, and the industry in general brings with it very negative side activities and businesses

Mary Michael Townsend, Ms.
Self / Business Development
Fort Worth, TX

Representatives, we do NOT need gambling, wagers, or whatever it is called. It does nothing for the character of Texans, it fosters addiction, and it leads to moral bankruptcy. We have got to get our state back to higher ideals that do not deter people from achieving their highest potential. Sports wagering is inviting people to become strapped with another habit that adds nothing to their lives.

Maribessl Powell
self
FORT WORTH, TX

I am against HB1942 and HJR97! Gambling draws in money laundering, organized crime, human and drug trafficking. We citizens of Texas know that this effort to get gambling and casinos into Texas, is funded by millions of dollars from the Sands Casino in Las Vegas. Why would you want to bring in organized crime? Don't we have enough problems? People gamble their paychecks, then start to steal, neglect their families, and become addicted to gambling. This hurts the low- and middle-income people the most and then leads to more people being on welfare. Evil begets evil and this is the portal to all these other, physical, social, emotional and spiritual problems. Driving through Shreveport I saw a billboard advertising a casino and beside it another billboard offering help for gambling addiction. Why cause more distress and danger to the citizens of Texas? The money brought in will be tainted money. As my father always said, "Gambling is an ungodly way to make money!" Spare the people of Texas from this onslaught of evil.

Sharon Loveall
Constituent of Rep. GEREN
Fort Worth, TX

As a voter in the State of Texas, I am surprised that our great state is considering this bill. It will destroy families, ruin lives, cause addictions, and being pain and suffering. The only plus is that it will bring in to Texas more revenue, but is that worth the calamity it will cause its citizens? Vote against this evil bill. Thank you.

Jean Davis
Self
Fort Worth, TX

The very last thing Texas needs is gambling!! Please vote NO to HB 1942.

Jana Long
Concerned Women for America
Dallas, TX

I ask that the Committee Members and Legislators vote against this bill on gambling due to the dangers gambling brings to Texas families. We need no further expansion of gambling in Texas.

Kim Jorns, Mrs.
self--homemaker
Ft Worth, TX

With regards to gambling, whether Sports related or not, it seems to foster addictive behavior that hurts the indigent and families. It shouldn't just be about the money our State could make, since the Lottery never came through with supporting schools. Consider the fact that it draws crime too--like drugs and sex trafficking as well. Why now? Or is it just about the money?

Brian Burgess, pastor
self
Waxahachie, TX

Our TX GOP platform and my Southern Baptist denomination and I personally as a pastor oppose any expansion of legalized gambling in our great State of Texas, including decriminalizing actions currently illegal in Texas.

Sylvia Coulson
self
Waxahachie, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Legalized gambling has no place in Texas.

Sharon Tryon, Mrs
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I do not support this bill

Katherine Hagood
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am opposed to gambling and casinos in Texas. This money will NOT be used for Texas schools as previously promised in TX Lottery. Gambling becomes an addiction. Do we really want our Texas citizens to spend all their money this way? Crime will increase in these areas. And, more importantly, human trafficking and drug trafficking happen. We already have enough problems with crime, human trafficking and drugs coming across our borders. I wouldn't be surprised to see the Cartels getting involved in this industry. Please Oppose gambling and casinos in Texas.

Deana Johnston
SELF
Dallas, TX

I AM AGAINST ALL GAMBLING BILLS BEING PRESENTED BY REP. LEACH. PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT ANY OF HIS BILLS TO BRING GAMBLING TO TEXAS.

Andrew Eller
State Republican Executive Committee SD 24, Republican Party of Texas, Self
Temple, TX

Plank 79 of the 2022 Republican Party of Texas Platform states that "We oppose any expansion of gambling, including legalized casino gambling. We oppose and call for a veto of any budget that relies on expansion of legalized gambling as a method of finance". Therefore I am opposed to this bill. This bill will only expand gambling. Please vote NO

Trayce Bradford

Myself

Grapevine, TX

This bill would legalize sports betting in Texas which is known to be highly addictive, especially for young people. The sports betting industry preys on our citizens with aggressive and constant marketing campaigns and ads that lure them with free offers which result in loss of income along with many damaging problems and addictions. There is reputable research and analysis revealing the correlation between sports betting and teenage gambling problems.

Carol Cole

Self - Retired

Fort Worth, TX

I am adamantly opposed to legalizing gambling in the State of Texas. Vote NO!

Michael Burdick, Pastor

self

Fredericksburg, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. Texas has been very successful without state-sanctioned, predatory gambling. This is devastating and wrong for Texas, our families, and young people. Please stop predatory gambling in Texas.

Sherry Eller

Self

Temple, TX

Oppose HB 1942 ,

I agree with the RPT Resolution Opposing Casino Gambling in Texas

Resolution Opposing Casino Gambling in Texas

Posted 3.17.2023 - by RPT Staff

WHEREAS, Texas Republican legislators have introduced legislation that seeks to change our Texas Constitution to allow for casino gambling in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the gambling bills now mask the negative connotations of casino gambling by referring to casinos euphemistically as “destination resorts”¹ with “fabulous hotels, restaurants, showrooms, and retail” to attract families²; and

WHEREAS, the usual arguments for opening the state to gambling continue to be, “this will create jobs” and “create revenue” to fund schools and provide tax relief; and

WHEREAS, these reasons fail to overcome the substantial economic and social costs to individuals, families, and communities, including mental health costs, crime costs, business and employment costs, family breakdown, bankruptcy, suicide, and direct regulatory costs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas has a \$33 billion budget surplus; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation to establish the gambling industry in Texas would violate the free market principles of the Republican Party of Texas by awarding a limited number of licenses to resort casinos who have lobbied and generously contributed to the campaigns of Texas legislators while instituting a politically protected industry; and

WHEREAS, once the gambling industry is allowed to operate legally in the state, its lobbying power will grow and its influence over legislators and local community officials will increase; and

WHEREAS, Plank 79 of the 2022 Republican Party of Texas Platform states that “We oppose any expansion of gambling, including legalized casino gambling. We oppose and call for a veto of any budget that relies on expansion of legalized gambling as a method of finance”; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Republican Party of Texas calls on all Republican Texas Legislators to cease and desist with any efforts to open the State of Texas to casino gambling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be distributed to each Republican member of the Texas Legislature, to the Governor, and to the Lieutenant Governor.

Donald Smith

Self, Business Owner

Baird, TX

Casinos leave far more gambling addicts than jobs and create unfairness for other businesses.

It is a lie that gambling gives “freedom to decide” < “destination resorts” or “new Business”

American consumers experience over \$100 billion/year in gambling losses

Money will not be used for Texas schools as previously promised in TX Lottery

Gambling becomes an addiction.

Crime increases greatly.

Increased in human trafficking and drug trafficking happen.

Let your pastor and anyone else who would submit comments know about this

Jana Smith
Self, Business Owner
Baird, TX

Casinos leave far more gambling addicts than jobs and create unfairness for other businesses.
It is a lie that gambling gives “freedom to decide” < “destination resorts” or “new Business”
American consumers experience over \$100 billion/year in gambling losses
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Gambling becomes an addiction.
Crime increases greatly.
Increased in human trafficking and drug trafficking happen.

Richard Earp
self
Trophy Club, TX

Suppose you add (say) a tax of 10 cents on every online bet. Imagine the revenue! In my experience, I don't think other states do this, but you'd be the first to tax every bet and we'd make a fortune .. Richard Earp

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC
Flint, TX

Grassroots America - We the People PAC, a statewide organization, strongly opposes HB 1942. It will bring more organized crime of all varieties to Texas - the last thing law enforcement needs.

Gambling violates many biblical principles; it further burdens those already in financial difficulty, resulting in serious consequences for families.

Sports Betting is known to be highly addictive, especially for young people. The Sports Betting industry preys on citizens with aggressive and constant marketing campaigns and ads that lure them with free offers, which result in loss of income along with many damaging problems and addictions.

Commercialized Sports Gambling is a form of financial fraud, similar to loansharking, price gouging, and false advertising, that results in lifechanging financial losses for millions of Americans.
This financial scheme is mathematically rigged against the gambler.

American consumers experience over \$100 billion/year in gambling losses. The American people are on course to lose more than \$1 trillion of their personal wealth to predatory gambling over the next eight years.
For every \$1 in new gambling revenue, the costs to taxpayers, DHS agencies, and governments is at least \$3-\$5 in gambling-related criminal justice and healthcare spending, job loss, bankruptcy, and other consequences.

State-sanctioned predatory gambling creates no new product. Rather, it preys on the poor. It does not create new wealth. Nor does it build strong families, generational wealth, and strong communities.

Source Documentation:
<https://www.stoppredatorygambling.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-Fact-Sheet-on-Commercialized-Sports-Gambling.pdf>

<https://sbtexas.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Sentinel-Update-March-22-2023-Update50.pdf>

We urge the House State Affairs Committee to reject HB 1942.

JoAnn Fleming
Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC