

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs  
For HB 2843

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.

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

Tim Shinogle  
Self  
Arlington, TX

I am opposed to this bill and urge all legislators to vote no.

Billie G Young  
Self  
Houston, TX

I am writing to oppose HB2350 because it protect predatory lenders and brings undo hardships on people with fixed income and mostly brown and black people. Please protect our people and not cause any undo hardship. So oppose this house bill 2350. Thank youin advance.

shad melton, Mr.  
self, Information Tech  
nederland, TX

As a Texas resident that has worked in casinos in Louisiana, I can attest to how much money we are losing to out of state casinos.. please just go look at the droves of cars in the parking lots .. All from Texas. this is an opportunity to capture that revenue , create jobs. increase tourism , and put an end to the pop-up unregulated game rooms. thank you for your time reading this.

Ginny Cross  
United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce  
Corpus Christi, TX

Every day, thousands of Texans leave the state to travel to border state casinos, taking with them sales tax revenues and spending. The United Corpus Christi Chamber supports legislations in favor of casino gambling in Texas.

Sue Evenwel  
Myself  
Mt. Pleasant, TX

Texas has been very successful without state-sanctioned, predatory gambling. Too many communities and lives are ruined. Vote NO!

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.

Samantha Buford  
Self  
Palmer, TX

I do NOT support HB 2843 and request you vote against it as well. We do not need additional crime, arrests, and reasons to tempt our nation to gamble and be broke and wind up on the streets. Yes, this may seem extreme, but as you know with any addiction the extreme is inevitable. Thank you and vote NO!

Sylvia Coulson  
Self  
Waxahachie, TX

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

Deana Johnston  
SELF  
Dallas, TX

I AM AGAINST ALL EFFORTS TO BRING GAMBLING TO OUR GREAT STATE. PLEASE DO NOT BE FOOLED INTO THINKING THAT GAMBLING IS A GOOD THING. DO NOT SUPPORT!

Trayce Bradford  
Myself  
Grapevine, TX

Texas has been very successful without state-sanctioned, predatory gambling and the effects it brings to the surrounding communities. This is devastating and wrong for Texas, our families and our young people.

Andrew Eller  
State Republican Executive Committee SD24, 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 and is not in line with our principals. Please 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.

Sherry Eller

Self

Temple, TX

Oppose HB 2843 ,

I agree with the RPT Resolution Opposing Casino Gambling in Texas

Resolution Opposing Casino Gambling in Texas

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”<sup>1</sup> with “fabulous hotels, restaurants, showrooms, and retail” to attract families<sup>2</sup>; 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.

Frank Holman, Citizen

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not vote to send this bill out of committee. Keep Texas Texas.

Richard Earp

self

Trophy Club, TX

Suppose you add (say) a tax of 10 cents on every online bet to this bill. Imagine the revenue! In my experience, I don't think other states do this and I've bet on a lot of horse and dog races online in Alabama and Florida. You'd be the first to tax every bet and our state would make a fortune. In my opinion, this bill is overdue and the money to be received is way too much to ignore. I strongly endorse the bill and hopefully it will pass soon. Richard Earp

Naomi Narvaiz, SREC SD25

State Republican Executive Committee Senate District 25

New Braunfels, TX

I am registering my opposition to this bill. These type of activities cause only harm to societies and especially to families and individuals who become addicted. Texas does not need this to be great or fund education. Texas needs to stop spending and then it would have a greater surplus. Schools must also learn to live within its means. The grand football stadiums, amount of bonds every year and the water parks in South Texas are evidence of money that should have been directed to the classroom. In addition, the bloated superindependent's salaries are also proof. Texas has waste problems because it has been blessed with so much prosperity. Do not bring more problems to Texas. VOTE NO. This will only harm families by making them victims to the head of households becoming addicted.

Mary Ellen Snell, Mrs.

Bexar County GOP Precinct Chair #3194

Boerne, TX

Dear Legislators-

I cannot express emphatically enough my OPPOSITION to the House gambling resolutions, especially HJR 97, and the Senate Bill 715. My fellow GOP Precinct Chairs are overwhelmingly opposed, as are most conservative Republicans I know.

Unfortunately, this year's push for comprehensive statewide gambling has attracted some young, unprincipled, atheist, libertarians, new to the GOP, both morally unprincipled and uneducated. They are rabid for moral/social ills in the name of "freedom". These advocats are trying to undermine our GOP as persistently as the 78 casino lobbyists from Las Vegas Sands/Texas Destination Resort/Texas Sands PAC who have been PAID to sell you their proposals for multi-use developments with a 25% casino footprint, initially located in 7 Dem-led cities, with Cartel operations. I can assure you...this is just a plan to start. One can clearly see the potential for a follow-up long-term growth plan for Las Vegas Sands to take advantage of a large state like Texas, and her citizens.

These desperate lobbyists had the bright idea to recently term their legislation "Family Entertainment". Do these out-of- staters think we are stupid? We need to shun this now. We need to turn our backs and walk away. As God-fearing Texans this is how we handle temptation. Tell Las Vegas Sands NO! to their Texas growth plan. Everyone is following the money. And, it makes the GOP look corrupt.

Abbott took \$1.2 million

Phelan took \$300,000

Patrick took \$200,000

Who else is on this list?

Our State of Texas does not need LVS money. Our leaders don't need LVS money.

The people are watching. We don't want our state to be as ugly and corrupt as the Democrat-led casino mafias in BLUE states. Our citizens will lose, literally. They have a 13.5% chance of winning while gambling. And, lots more to lose in their communities We are at risk with legalized corporate gambling welfare established statewide.

Both our RPT platform and our State Constitution are AGAINST gambling.

I expect you to vote NO to the three House gambling resolutions and SB715. And, I tell you what...why don't you save us all some future grief and amend the language to place a 10-year moratorium on this issue after it fails in your Committees. I would like to submit attachments, in addition to my comments.

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

Grassroots America - We the People PAC strongly opposes HB 2843 and asks the House State Affairs Committee to reject it because:

As many as 10 million Americans live with a gambling addiction. It is estimated another 2-3% more are developing early signs of gambling addiction.

Together, pathological and problem gambling may affect up to 5% of Americans.

Gambling is recognized as an addiction on the same level as heroin, cocaine, and opioids in the APA DSM-5.

1 in 5 problem gamblers attempt suicide. Also, physical health problems are related such as insomnia, stress related conditions like heart disease, diabetes, peptic ulcer disease, depression, and increased anxiety.

Gambling is creating over \$100 billion per year in losses and generational debt.

Gambling results in family conflicts, verbal, and physical arguments, and increased domestic violence.

Online gambling is addictive, through which individuals often gamble uninterrupted and undetected for hours at a time in isolation, using credit.

Youth rates of being at-risk for problem gambling are 2 - 3 times higher than adult rates. 28 75% of college students gambled during the past year; the number of college students who suffer from gambling addiction has increased by nearly 50% in the last decade due to online gambling.

Sports betting has a damaging and corrupt effect on sports and encourages a culture of young people to think of competition in terms of bets and odds.

Crime increases greatly with state sanctioned, predatory gambling.

State-sanctioned gambling is exempt from truth-in-advertising laws enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, enjoying much latitude in advertisement, exaggerating chances of winning, and aggressively luring citizens.

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

Sources:

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National Institutes of Health, When the Stakes Turn Toxic, Learn About Problem Gambling, May 2011 <https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2011/05/when-stakes-turn-toxic>

American Psychiatric Association, What is a Gambling Disorder? <https://psychiatry.org/patients-families/gambling-disorder/what-is-gambling-disorder>

Jon Doss, ABC 5 News Cleveland, Problem gamblers have highest suicide rate of any addiction disorder, studies show, Sep 09, 2021, <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/problem-gamblers-have-highest-suicide-rate-of-any-addictiondisorder-studies-show>

Daniel Martin and Tom Witherow, Daily Mail, A Gambling Suicide Everyday: Shocking report finds 2m families blighted by problem gambling and 50,000 children are addicted, July 1, 2020, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8481115/A-gamblingsuicide-day-Shocking-report-finds-2m-families-blighted-problem-gambling.html>