

REPORT OF THE REVENUE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

(Bannister, Whitmire, Stavrinakis, Lowe & Hewitt - Staff Contact: Julia Foster)

HOUSE BILL 4129

Skill-Based Competitions

Summary of Bill:

This bill states that participation in games, activities, or events where skill outweighs chance—such as PGA, NASCAR, fishing, or tennis tournaments—is not considered gambling. Participants must pay a fee and receive rewards based on performance. Non-card-based predominate skill games are also included under this exemption.

Estimated Fiscal Impact:

No impact is anticipated.

Subcommittee Action/Explanation:

The Subcommittee met on April 22 to hear public testimony. The Subcommittee met on April 29 and gave the bill a favorable report.

Full Committee Action/Explanation:

Other Notes/Comments:



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H. 4129	Introduced on March 5, 2025
Subject:	Gambling Exceptions	
Requestor:	House Ways and Means	
RFA Analyst(s):	Tipton	
Impact Date:	April 18, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill specifies that it is not gambling for the purposes of Chapter 19 of Title 26 if, in certain games, activities, or events in which skill predominates over chance, a person who pays a fee to participate in the event subsequently receives a thing of value proportionate to how skillfully he plays in the game, activity, or event.

Judicial anticipates that the provisions of the bill will have no expenditure impact as any change in caseload is expected to be managed with existing resources. For information, Judicial reports that 19 cases brought for gambling offenses were disposed of in circuit court during FY 2023-24. Further, Judicial reports that a survey of court records in Greenville, Horry, and Richland counties indicated that no cases were disposed of under the magistrate court gambling offenses during FY 2023-24.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) indicates that the provisions of this bill will have no state revenue impact as all income must currently be reported for income tax purposes.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on March 5, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill specifies that it is not gambling for the purposes of Chapter 19 of Title 26 if, in certain games, activities, or events in which skill predominates over chance, a person who pays a fee to participate in the event subsequently receives a thing of value proportionate to how skillfully he plays in the game, activity, or event. Judicial anticipates that the provisions of this bill will have no expenditure impact as any change in caseload as a result of the bill can be managed with existing resources. For information, according to Judicial, 19 cases brought for gambling offenses were disposed of in circuit court in FY 2023-24.

State Revenue

DOR anticipates that the provisions of this bill will have no state revenue impact as all income must currently be reported for income tax purposes.

South Carolina General Assembly
126th Session, 2025-2026

H. 4129

STATUS INFORMATION

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Brewer, Guffey, M.M. Smith, Hartnett, Teeple, B.L. Cox, Sessions, Mitchell, Stavrinakis, Pedalino, Brittain, Hayes, Guest, Luck, Atkinson and Bamberg

Companion/Similar bill(s): 362

Document Path: LC-0123AHB25.docx

Introduced in the House on March 5, 2025

Currently residing in the House

Summary: Gambling, exceptions

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
3/5/2025	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 5)
3/5/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Ways and Means (House Journal-page 5)
3/6/2025	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bamberg

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VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

03/05/2025

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9 **A BILL**
10

11 TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 16-19-5 SO AS
12 TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO PAYS A FEE TO PLAY A GAME IN WHICH SKILL
13 PREDOMINATES OVER CHANCE AND RECEIVES A PRIZE PROPORTIONATE TO HOW
14 SKILLFULLY HE PLAYED IS NOT GAMBLING.
15

16 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:
17

18 SECTION 1. Chapter 19, Title 16 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:
19

20 Section 16-19-5. For the purposes of this chapter, a person who pays a fee to participate in a game,
21 activity, or event in which skill predominates over chance including, but not limited to, a Professional
22 Golf Association (PGA) Tournament; a National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR)
23 event; a billfishing or bass fishing tournament; an Association of Tennis Professional Tour event or
24 Women's Tennis Association Tour event; a turkey shoot; or any non-card-based predominant skill
25 game, activity, or event, and receives a thing of value proportionate to how skillfully he plays in the
26 game, activity, or event is not gambling.
27

28 SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.
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