

# REPORT OF THE REVENUE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

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

---

---

## HOUSE BILL 4176

### I-95 ECONOMIC AND EDUCATION STIMULUS ACT

#### Summary of Bill:

The I-95 Economic and Education Stimulus Act establishes a legal framework for Class III casino gaming in South Carolina, limited to counties that include a segment of I-95 and are designated Tier IV by the Department of Revenue (DOR). Currently, Dillon, Marlboro, and Orangeburg counties meet these criteria and would be eligible to host a casino.

The bill creates the South Carolina Gaming Commission, composed of three appointed members—one each by the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker. The commission will license, regulate, and oversee casino operations. Commissioners will receive standard mileage and per diem reimbursements, but no salary. A full-time executive director will manage operations, with compensation prohibited from being tied to profitability of casino revenues. The commission is required to be self-sustaining, with no General Fund support.

One initial casino license may be issued based on a request from an eligible county council. No additional licenses may be issued statewide for 10 years. To qualify, a casino operator must submit an economic impact study and invest at least \$200 million in property and infrastructure. A \$500,000 non-refundable application fee, a \$2 million refundable licensing fee, and a \$500,000 annual fee apply. The license is valid for 15 years, with 5-year renewals.

The bill imposes a 15% privilege tax on a casino's adjusted gross gaming revenue (GGR), defined as total wagers minus payouts.

#### Estimated Fiscal Impact:

Based on comparable casinos in Arkansas and Virginia, annual GGR for the initial South Carolina casino could range from \$149 million to \$262 million, resulting in estimated privilege tax revenue of \$22.3 million to \$39.3 million per year. If a temporary facility is allowed, revenue could begin as early as FY 2025-26; otherwise, the permanent casino is unlikely to open before FY 2027-28. Licensing fees will generate \$2.5M upfront, plus \$500K annually from the first operator.

The commission must be self-sustaining. No General Fund dollars will be used. SLED and DOR responsibilities (background checks and tax data support) will be handled with current resources. LAC will conduct audits every three years, funded by casino revenue.

#### Subcommittee Action/Explanation:

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

#### Full Committee Action/Explanation:

#### Other Notes/Comments:

The Subcommittee amendment revises the make up of the commission, increasing the number of commissioners from 3 to 5 members and creates staggered terms. It also provides that 3% of privilege tax collections shall be equally distributed into the local general funds of the eligible counties.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**HOUSE AMENDMENT**

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

David Good  
April 29, 2025

ADOPTED	REJECTED	TABLED	ADJOURN DEBATE	RECONSIDERED	ROO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the House

ADOPTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**BILL NO: H. 4176**

(Reference is to the original version)

The Revenue Policy Subcommittee proposes the following amendment (LC-4176.DG0001H):

Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 3, by deleting Section 1-36-10(14) from the bill.

Amend the bill further, SECTION 3, by striking Section 1-36-30 and inserting:

Section 1-36-30. ~~(A) There is established the South Carolina Gaming Commission to provide governance and oversight of casino gaming authorized under this chapter. The commission and its employees are subject to the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code, South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act, South Carolina Ethics Reform Act, and South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Venue for the commission is in Richland County.~~

~~—(B) The commission is composed of three members. One member must be appointed by the Governor who shall serve as chairman of the commission, one member must be appointed by the~~

~~President of the Senate, and one member must be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Decisions of the commission must be made by majority vote. A quorum of the commission is two or more members.~~

~~—(C) A member must:~~

~~—(1) be a resident of the State of South Carolina;~~

~~—(2) not have been convicted of a felony offense or bookmaking or other form of unlawful gambling. A background investigation must be conducted on each commission nominee. The commission shall pay for the cost of the investigation and may contract with the State Law Enforcement Division or appropriate federal agency for the performance of the investigation;~~

~~—(3) meet the qualifications for electors as provided in Section 7-5-120; and~~

~~—(4) not have been an elected public official, an office that would be considered for purposes of the prohibition against dual office holding, as provided in Section 24, Article III of the Constitution of this State, and Section 2-1-100, for at least one year before appointment.~~

~~—(D) An individual is not eligible for appointment as a member of the commission if the individual:~~

~~—(1) is an officer or official of a political party;~~

~~—(2) has a direct pecuniary interest in the gaming industry;~~

~~—(3) has been convicted of a felony;~~

~~—(4) has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving gambling, theft, computer-related offenses, forgery, perjury, dishonesty, or unlawfully selling or providing a product or substance to a minor;~~

~~—(5) has been convicted of a violation under this chapter; or~~

~~—(6) has been convicted of an offense in a federal court, military court, or court of another state, territory, or jurisdiction that under the laws of this State would disqualify him pursuant to items (3), (4), or (5).~~

~~—(E) In making appointments to the commission, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as appropriate, shall consider legal, financial,~~

~~accounting, and marketing experience and race, gender, and other demographic factors to ensure nondiscrimination, inclusion, and representation of all segments of the State to the greatest extent possible.~~

~~—(F) The term of each commission member begins on March first and shall continue for a period of four years with each new appointment or reappointment being four years and validly serving until his successor is appointed and qualified. Vacancies, if any, must be filled for the balance of the then remaining term and an appointment to the vacant office must be made by the appointing authority that made the original appointment and under the same standards as the original appointment, mutatis mutandis.~~

~~—(G) A member of the commission may be removed from the commission by the appointing authority if, in the opinion of the appointing authority, the member has committed misfeasance or malfeasance in office or neglect of duty.~~

~~—(H) The commission shall meet no less than quarterly and may hold additional regular and special meetings at the call of the commission. The members shall not receive a salary but may be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provided for commissions and boards.~~

(A) There is created a commission to be known as the “South Carolina Gaming Commission,” which is considered to be a public commission and an instrumentality of the State. The commission and its employees are subject to the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code, South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act, South Carolina Ethics Reform Act, and South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Venue for the commission is in Richland County.

(B) The commission is composed of five members. One member must be appointed by the Governor, one member must be appointed by the President of the Senate, one member must be appointed by the Senate Finance Chairman, one member must be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one member must be appointed by the House Ways and Means Chairman. Decisions of the commission must be made by majority vote. A quorum of the commission is three or more members.

(C) A member must:

- (1) be a resident of the State of South Carolina;
- (2) not have been convicted of a felony offense or bookmaking or other form of unlawful gambling. A background investigation must be conducted on each commission nominee. The commission shall pay for the cost of the investigation and may contract with the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) or appropriate federal agency for the performance of the investigation;
- (3) meet the qualifications for electors as provided in Section 7-5-120; and
- (4) not have been an elected public official, as provided in Section 24, Article III of the Constitution of this State and Section 2-1-100, for at least one year before appointment.
- (D) A person is not eligible for appointment to the commission if the person:
- (a) is an officer or official of a political party;
- (b) has a direct pecuniary interest in the sports wagering or gaming industry;
- (c) has been convicted of a felony;
- (d) has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving gambling, theft, computer-related offenses, forgery, perjury, dishonesty, or unlawfully selling or providing a product or substance to a minor;
- (e) has been convicted of a violation under this chapter; or
- (f) has been convicted of an offense in a federal court, military court, or court of another state, territory, or jurisdiction that under the laws of this State would disqualify him pursuant to items (c), (d), or (e).
- (E) The term of each member begins on March first. For purposes of staggering the terms of the commission:
- (1) the member appointed by the Governor is appointed for an initial term of four years;
- (2) the members appointed by the Senate Finance Chairman and the House Ways and Means Chairman are appointed for initial terms of three years; and
- (3) the members appointed by the President Senate and the Speaker of the House are appointed for initial terms of two years.

(F) After the initial terms, the term of an appointed or reappointed member is four years.

(G) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (E), at the end of the member's term, the member continues to serve until his successor is appointed and qualified.

(H) A vacancy on the commission must be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

(I) A member of the commission may be removed from the commission by the appointing authority if, in the opinion of the appointing authority, the member has committed misfeasance or malfeasance in office or neglect of duty.

(J) Three members of the commission constitute a quorum for the purposes of voting and conducting the business of the commission, and such attendance may be by electronic or telephonic means.

(K) The commission shall elect a chair from among its membership. The chair shall serve in that capacity for one year and is eligible for reelection. The chair shall preside at all meetings and has all the powers and privileges of other members.

(L) The commission shall meet no less than quarterly and may hold additional regular and special meetings at the call of the commission.

(M) The members may be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provided for commissions and boards.

Amend the bill further, SECTION 3, by striking Section 1-36-70(D) and inserting:

(D)(1) ~~The proceeds from the privilege tax must be credited to the general fund.~~ Ninety-seven percent of the privilege tax collected pursuant to this section must be transmitted by the Department of Revenue into the state general fund. A portion, in an amount to be determined by the General Assembly, must be allocated by the General Assembly in its annual general appropriations bill or any bill appropriating monies for previous or current fiscal years to the South Carolina Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities to receive monies

from the fund for the prevention and treatment of compulsive gambling disorder and educational programs related to that disorder.

(2) Three percent of the privilege tax collected under this section must be credited to the eligible counties. The Department of Revenue shall deposit such collections equally into the local general funds of each eligible county as defined in Section 1-36-10.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.



# SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

## STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

WWW.RFA.SC.GOV • (803)734-3793

---

*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. 4176 Introduced on March 6, 2025  
**Subject:** Gaming Commission  
**Requestor:** House Ways and Means  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Tipton  
**Impact Date:** March 31, 2025

---

### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill establishes the I-95 Economic and Education Stimulus Act, which creates the framework for legal casino gaming to take place in specified counties and creates the South Carolina Gaming Commission to oversee and administer this program. The bill establishes guidelines for the implementation of casino gaming and provides for a 15 percent privilege tax on casino operators adjusted gross gaming revenue (GGR). The bill states that privilege tax revenue will be credited to the general fund. To qualify as a location for a casino, counties must contain a section of I-95 within their borders and be classified as Tier IV by the Department of Revenue (DOR) for job tax credit purposes as specified in Information Letter #23-18.<sup>1</sup> Based on these requirements, Dillon, Marlboro, and Orangeburg counties would be eligible to host a casino location under this bill.

The commission is responsible for the licensure of casino operators, regulation, and general administration of casino gaming, and will be composed of three members. Prospective commission members must meet background, residency, and other requirements in the bill and will be appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The commission is also tasked with appointing an executive director to oversee the implementation of casino gaming.

This bill directs the commission to issue one initial license to a casino operator pursuant to a request from an eligible county council. Once an initial license is granted to an eligible county, no license may be authorized for a period of 10 years. We assume this limitation on authorization of licenses will apply statewide, and no licenses will be issued to other counties for 10 years. The bill prescribes numerous considerations to be made by the commission in licensing a prospective casino operator, including, but not limited to criminal background checks of the casino's ownership group conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), licensure in other jurisdictions, previously obtained licenses from DOR that remain in good standing, financial information and records to ensure integrity in the casino operations, and any additional information deemed necessary by the commission. The bill prescribes the initial license term to be 15 years which may be renewed by the casino operator through the commission every 5 years after the initial 15-year period. The applicant must submit a non-

<sup>1</sup> SC Department of Revenue, *SC Information Letter #23-18*, December 6, 2023, <https://dor.sc.gov/resources-site/lawandpolicy/Advisory%20Opinions/IL23-18.pdf>



refundable application fee of \$500,000 and a refundable licensing fee of \$2,000,000 to the commission for application review. A recurring annual fee of \$500,000 must be submitted to commission upon commencement of casino gaming. The commission may retain all license, application, and annual fees provided by the bill to cover the commission's administrative and operating costs. While the administrative and operating costs of the commission are currently unknown, the commission is required to be self-sustaining, and no state General Funds may be used or obligated to the commission. Therefore, the commission will have an undetermined Other Funds expenditure impact.

This bill requires DOR to provide the commission with tax information regarding prospective casino licensees. The agency indicates that this will be managed using existing staff and resources. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on DOR.

This bill requires management performance audits of the commission to be conducted by Legislative Audit Council (LAC) every three years or at the request of ten members of the House of Representatives or five members of the Senate. The cost of performing the audits is a qualifying expense for the commission to be covered by revenue available for such expenses. The total future audit costs will depend on the number and extent of the audits requested.

This bill requires SLED to conduct background checks of prospective licensees for the commission as well as prospective members of the commission. We anticipate that this will be a qualifying expense of the commission and will be covered by revenue available for such expenses and will be managed by SLED under normal operations.

The House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Governor's Office indicate that the appointment requirements for the Gaming Commission will take place under normal operations and, therefore, will have no impact.

The revenue impact will vary depending on the location of the initial casino licensee, the total capital investment, the consumer behavior of state residents and interstate travelers, the amount wagered at the casino, and the casino win rate, which determines GGR to which the 15 percent privilege tax is applied. Based on a review of gaming revenue generated at casino locations in Arkansas and Virginia, both of which legalized casino gaming in the last seven years, this bill may increase privilege tax revenue by approximately \$22,350,000 to \$39,300,000, in the first full year of casino gaming. Based on comparable casino locations and the time required to establish the commission, review and approve the initial licensee, and construct the casino, the permanent site of the initial licensee is unlikely to be operational prior to FY 2027-28. However, if the initial licensee is permitted to open a temporary location, privilege tax revenues may be generated as early as FY 2025-26 based on the experiences of similar states. The bill also states that the privilege tax will be applied to adjusted GGR, the definition of which is unclear. If the casino operator is permitted to adjust its GGR for other taxes or expenses, privilege tax revenue may be lower than estimated.

The bill specifies in §1-36-70 that the privilege tax is to be credited to the general fund. The bill also defines host county in §1-36-10 as the county in which the casino site is located and

receives a portion of the privilege tax pursuant to §1-36-70. Given these two references, it is unclear as to whether the privilege tax revenue generated would be credited to the General Fund of the state or general fund of the host county and how these sections would be interpreted.

Licensing and application fees will generate revenue of \$2,500,000 in FY 2025-26 for the initial application, and an additional \$500,000 in annual fees will be generated upon commencement of casino gaming. Beginning in FY 2035-36, after the required ten-year period in which only one casino license is authorized under the bill, license, application, and annual fee revenue may increase as additional casino operators are licensed by the commission. License and application renewal fees of \$2,500,000 will be required every five years beginning in FY 2040-41 for the initial casino licensee. The commission may retain all license, application, and annual fees established under the bill for administrative and operating expenses.

The bill is expected to increase Other Funds revenue for SLED from background checks of prospective commission members and licensees by an undetermined amount. SLED is authorized to retain fees from background checks above \$4,461,000, which is allocated to the General Fund pursuant to state law. From FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24, SLED retained an average of \$13,081,000 per year. Therefore, no increase in General Fund revenue is expected from the additional background checks and the potential increase in Other Funds revenue to SLED is undetermined as it depends on the number of additional background checks.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Introduced on March 6, 2025**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill establishes the I-95 Economic and Education Stimulus Act, which creates the framework for legal Class III casino gaming to take place in counties that contain a section of I-95 within their borders and are classified as Tier IV by DOR for job tax credit purposes as specified in Information Letter #23-18. Dillon, Marlboro, and Orangeburg counties are both classified as Tier IV by DOR that also include I-95 within their borders and would be eligible to host a casino location under this bill. The casino may be located anywhere in an eligible county. The bill establishes the South Carolina Gaming Commission to provide governance and oversight of casino gaming. The bill establishes guidelines for the implementation of casino gaming and provides for a 15 percent privilege tax on casino operators adjusted GGR.

The commission is responsible for the licensure of casino operators, regulation, and general administration of casino gaming, and will be composed of three members: one appointed by the Governor who will serve as chairman, one appointed by the President of the Senate, and one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Commission appointees must meet several enumerated requirements in the bill, including a background check, residency, and verification of economic or financial interests. The commission is also tasked with appointing an executive director to oversee the day-to-day operations and management of the commission. The compensation of the executive director may not be based upon or a function of profitability or revenue of any casino.

This bill directs the commission to issue a license to a casino operator pursuant to a request through an ordinance passed by an eligible county's council. The bill prescribes numerous requirements and considerations to be made by the commission in licensing a prospective casino operator, including, but not limited to, criminal background checks of the casino's ownership group conducted by SLED, previously obtained casino licenses in other jurisdictions, previously obtained licenses from DOR that remain in good standing, financial information and records to ensure integrity in the casino operations, and any additional information deemed necessary by the commission. A prospective casino operator must also provide an economic impact study showing an investment in real property improvements and necessary infrastructure to the proposed casino site of at least \$200,000,000. The economic impact study must also provide the commission with information regarding the gaming market in the state, economic impacts on the closest municipality, county, and the state as a whole, projected development costs, traffic counts, employment opportunities, and projected GGR.

Once an initial license has been issued at the request of one of the eligible counties, no additional casino licenses may be issued for a period of 10 years. We assume that this restriction will apply statewide and that no other licenses will be issued to other eligible counties. The bill prescribes the initial license term to be 15 years, which may be renewed by the casino operator through the commission every five years after the initial 15-year period. The applicant must submit a non-refundable application fee of \$500,000 and a refundable licensing fee of \$2,000,000 to the commission for application review. An additional fee of \$500,000 must be submitted annually to commission upon commencement of casino gaming.

Commission members will not receive compensation beyond normal mileage, per diem, and subsistence as provided by law for state boards, committees, and commissions. Pursuant to Proviso 117.19 of the FY 2024-25 Appropriations Act, each member of the commission who is not a current member of the General Assembly will receive per diem of \$50 and subsistence of no more than \$50 per day. Commission members who are also members of the General Assembly will receive per diem of \$50 per day and subsistence of \$240.07 per day for each commission meeting that the General Assembly is not already in session. Proviso 117.20 of the FY 2024-25 Appropriations Act further sets mileage reimbursement rates equal to the standard business mileage rate as established by the Internal Revenue Service currently of 70 cents per mile. The bill requires the commission to meet at least quarterly, which would result in a minimum annual expense related to commission meetings of \$1,200. However, as the actual commission meeting schedule, mileage, and subsistence amounts are currently unknown, the annual cost of meetings is undetermined. Administrative and operating costs of the commission are also currently unknown and will depend upon the structure determined by the commissioners. However, the bill states that the commission is required to be self-sustaining, and that no General Funds may be used or obligated to cover its expenses. Therefore, the commission will have an undetermined Other Funds expenditure impact.

**Department of Revenue.** This bill requires DOR to provide the commission with tax information regarding prospective casino licensees. The agency indicates that this will be managed using existing staff and resources. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on DOR.

**Legislative Audit Council.** This bill requires LAC to perform a management performance audit of the commission one year after the establishment of the commission and every three years thereafter. LAC is also required to perform the audit at the request of ten members of the House of Representatives or five members of the Senate. The cost of performing the audits is a qualifying expense for the commission to be covered by revenue available for such expenses. The total future audit costs will depend on the number and extent of the audits requested.

**State Law Enforcement Division.** This bill requires SLED to conduct background checks of prospective licensees for the commission. We anticipate that this will be a qualifying expense of the commission and will be covered by revenue available for such expenses and will be managed by SLED under normal operations.

**House of Representatives and the Senate.** The House of Representatives and the Senate indicate that the appointment requirements for the commission will take place under normal operations and will have no impact.

**Governor's Office.** The Governor's Office indicates that the appointment requirements for the commission will take place under normal operations and, therefore, will have no impact.

#### **State Revenue**

This bill establishes the I-95 Economic and Education Stimulus Act, which creates the framework for legal Class III casino gaming to take place in specified counties and creates the South Carolina Gaming Commission to oversee and administer this program.

The bill establishes a privilege tax of 15 percent on casino operator's adjusted GGR, to be credited to the general fund monthly commencing on the first full month following commencement of casino gaming. GGR is defined by the bill as the total amount of money wagered by players minus the winnings paid out, representing casino gaming revenue that the casino operator earns before deducting expenses and taxes. If casino operators are permitted to adjust GGR for other taxes or expenses, the GGR upon which the privilege tax will be applied may lower than anticipated. For the purposes of this estimate, we assume that the privilege tax will be applied to the GGR calculated under the definition included in the bill.

Based on a review of states in which in-person casino gaming is legal, and with laws and requirements similar to those proposed by the bill, this analysis is primarily based on four land-based casinos in Virginia and Arkansas, all of which commenced Class III casino gaming in the last five years after authorization by the state. Three casinos, Southland Casino Hotel, Saracen Casino Resort, and Rivers Casino Portsmouth, opened permanent locations prior to 2023, following a total capital investment above the amount required by the bill. Hard Rock Casino in Bristol, Virginia, opened a permanent location in November 2024, following a capital investment above the amount required by the bill. The following table shows approximate GGR for each casino location over the last two years, according to information from the state's regulatory authority.

**Sample Casino Gross Gaming Revenue**

Casino	2023	2024
Southland Casino Hotel, Arkansas <sup>2</sup>	\$303,600,000	\$339,000,000
Saracen Casino Resort, Arkansas	\$183,000,000	\$188,300,000
Rivers Casino Portsmouth, Virginia <sup>3</sup>	\$249,300,000	\$309,600,000
Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Virginia	\$160,500,000	\$194,200,000

As an illustration, applying the 15 percent privilege tax established by this bill to the sample casinos shows the potential privilege tax revenues generated by a casino. These values do not represent actual tax revenues, as each state has a different tax structure applied to casino revenue.

**15% Privilege Tax Applied to Sample Casino's GGR in 2023 and 2024**

Casino	2023	2024
Southland Casino Hotel, Arkansas	\$45,540,000	\$50,850,000
Saracen Casino Resort, Arkansas	\$27,450,000	\$28,245,000
Rivers Casino Portsmouth, Virginia	\$37,395,800	\$46,440,000
Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Virginia	\$24,075,000	\$29,130,000

Based on average GGR at the comparable casino locations in Arkansas and Virginia in 2023 and 2024, discounted based on the actual construction costs compared to the bill's capital investment requirement of \$200,000,000, a lower range average GGR for the initial casino licensee under the bill may be approximately \$149,000,000, beginning in the first full year of casino gaming. However, depending on the size and location of the final casino project, the total capital investment may exceed \$200,000,000. Thus, based on the average GGR at the comparable casino locations without applying a discount for the differences in total capital investment, an upper range average GGR for the initial casino licensee may be approximately \$262,000,000, beginning in the first full year of casino gaming. Therefore, this bill may increase privilege tax revenue by between \$22,350,000 and \$39,300,000 beginning in the first full year of casino gaming.

The actual revenue generated by the privilege tax may vary depending on the location of the initial casino licensee, the total capital investment, the consumer behavior of state residents and interstate travelers, and the amount wagered at the casino which will determine total GGR. This analysis assumes that consumer behavior in South Carolina will be similar to the experience in Arkansas and Virginia. Further, each of the sample casinos is located near a major interstate similar to I-95, and it is likely that a significant portion of casino patrons will be out-of-state travelers. Furthermore, privilege tax revenues generated by this bill may be impacted by

<sup>2</sup> Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, *Information from Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration*, February 16, 2025, <https://edition.arkansasonline.com/article/283605290947507>

<sup>3</sup> Virginia Lottery, *Casino Monthly Activity*, retrieved March 19, 2025, <https://www.valottery.com/aboutus/casinosandsportsbetting/casinos>

available alternatives to casino gaming, such as the South Carolina Education Lottery or online sports wagering.

It is also unclear whether the initial licensee under the bill would be permitted to operate a temporary casino location while the permanent site is under construction. Based on the comparable casino locations and the time required to establish the commission, review and approve the initial licensee, and construct the casino, the permanent site of the initial licensee is unlikely to be operational prior to FY 2027-28. However, if the initial licensee is permitted to open a temporary location, privilege tax revenues may be generated as early as FY 2025-26, based on the experiences of Virginia and Arkansas.

Please note, the bill specifies in §1-36-70 that the privilege tax is to be credited to the general fund. The bill also defines host county in §1-36-10 as the county in which the casino site is located and receives portion of the privilege tax pursuant to §1-36-70. Given these two references, it is unclear as to whether the privilege tax revenue generated would be credited to the General Fund of the state or general fund of the host county and how these sections would be interpreted with respect to the distribution of the privilege tax revenue. The bill also states that the privilege tax will be applied to adjusted GGR, the definition of which is unclear. If the casino operator is permitted to adjust its GGR for other taxes or expenses, privilege tax revenue may be lower than estimated.

Licensing and application fees will generate revenue of \$2,500,000 as early as FY 2025-26 for the initial application, and an additional \$500,000 annually upon commencement of casino gaming. Assuming a license is issued in FY 2025-26, beginning in FY 2035-36, after the required ten-year period in which only one casino license is authorized under the bill, license, application, and annual fee revenue may increase if additional casino operators are licensed by the commission. License and application renewal fees of \$2,500,000 will be required every five years beginning in FY 2040-41 for the initial casino licensee. Beginning in FY 2035-36, this bill may further increase privilege tax revenue, depending on the number of additional casino licenses authorized by the commission at that time. The commission may retain all license, application, and annual fees established under the bill for administrative and operating expenses.

Further, this bill will increase the number of criminal records searches that SLED is required to perform. SLED indicates that the total cost for a criminal records search is \$51.75, of which \$25 is retained by SLED. The vendor, Identogo, receives \$13.50, and the remainder of the fee, \$13.25, is remitted to the FBI. Pursuant to Section 23-3-115(A), revenue generated by criminal records checks performed by SLED up to an amount of \$4,461,000 must be deposited in the General Fund. Any revenue over that amount is retained by SLED. From FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24, SLED retained an average of \$13,081,000. Therefore, there is no expected increase in General Fund revenue from the additional background checks, and the potential increase in Other Funds to SLED is undetermined as it depends on the number of additional background checks.

#### **Local Expenditure and Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

**South Carolina General Assembly**  
126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 4176**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Murphy, Brewer, Gatch, Stavrinakis, Wetmore, Rutherford, Herbkersman, W. Newton, Rose, Robbins, Bernstein, Cobb-Hunter, Bamberg, Govan, Grant, Kirby and Alexander  
Document Path: LC-0172DG25.docx

Introduced in the House on March 6, 2025  
Currently residing in the House

Summary: Gaming Commission

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Body</u>	<u>Action Description with journal page number</u>
3/6/2025	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 44)
3/6/2025	House	Referred to Committee on <b>Ways and Means</b> (House Journal-page 44)
3/11/2025	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Cobb-Hunter, Bamberg
4/8/2025	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Govan, Grant, Kirby, Alexander

View the latest [legislative information](#) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

03/06/2025

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10

**A BILL**

11 TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "I-95 ECONOMIC  
12 AND EDUCATION STIMULUS ACT" BY ADDING CHAPTER 36 TO TITLE 1 SO AS TO  
13 ESTABLISH THE SOUTH CAROLINA GAMING COMMISSION THAT MAY AWARD CASINO  
14 LICENSES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES.  
15

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

17  
18 SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the "I-95 Economic and Education Stimulus Act."  
19

20 SECTION 2. The General Assembly finds that casino gaming is not consistent with nor compatible  
21 with the economic, labor, or tourism industry profile for most communities in South Carolina.  
22 However, the General Assembly recognizes and further finds that certain counties along Interstate 95  
23 (I-95) represent rural and impoverished school districts. The General Assembly further finds that casino  
24 gaming in these counties is consistent and compatible with their economic, labor, and tourism profiles  
25 and that revenue, job creation, and economic improvement from such gaming would substantially  
26 enhance the educational opportunities of children living in these areas. As set forth in Chapter 36, Title  
27 1, the General Assembly expressly intends to limit, regulate, and suppress options for casino gaming  
28 within the State of South Carolina.  
29

30 SECTION 3. Title 1 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:  
31

32 **CHAPTER 36**

33  
34 **Gaming Commission**  
35

36 Section 1-36-10. As used in this chapter:

37 (1) "Applicant" means the person selected by the eligible county to seek a casino license from the  
38 commission.

39 (2) "Casino" means the business authorized to engage in, promote, and host casino gaming  
40 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.



1 (3) "Casino site" is the specific parcel identified for the casino structure and ancillary structures  
2 located within an eligible county.

3 (4) "Casino gaming" for purposes of this chapter means all Class III gaming as defined in 25  
4 C.F.R. Section 502.4, with exception of a lottery, which is not permitted under the provisions of this  
5 chapter.

6 (5) "Casino license" is the license to own, develop and operate a casino pursuant to Section  
7 1-36-20 and the provisions of this chapter and will be site-specific.

8 (6) "Commencement of Gaming" is the date upon which the casino begins operations and offers  
9 casino gaming and access to the public pursuant to the regulations as established by the commission.

10 (7) "Commission" means the South Carolina Gaming Commission.

11 (8) "Development agreement" means an agreement between the applicant and an eligible county  
12 that meets the requirements of Section 6-31-60(A). Notwithstanding the term and acreage limitations  
13 of a development agreement pursuant to Section 6-31-40, any development agreement relating to a  
14 casino site shall have an initial term coterminous with the initial license, including any extensions.

15 (9) "Eligible county" means those counties that:

16 (a) contain a section of I-95 within their borders;

17 (b) is classified as a Tier IV county for job tax credit purposes pursuant to Section 12-6-3360(B)  
18 as determined by the South Carolina Department of Revenue in Information Letter #23-18; and

19 (c) have passed an ordinance by the county council requesting the commission to issue a casino  
20 license to the applicant pursuant to a development agreement between the applicant and the eligible  
21 county.

22 (10) "Executive director" means the Executive Director of the South Carolina Gaming  
23 Commission.

24 (11) "Economic Impact Study" or "EIS" means a comprehensive market study of the proposed  
25 casino and the economic impacts of the same.

26 (12) "Gaming Equipment" means any tables, electronic gaming machines or other equipment  
27 commonly identified as Class III gaming and authorized by this chapter. Equipment used in connection  
28 with Class II gaming, as defined in the 25 C.F.R. Section 502.3, is specifically excluded from this  
29 definition.

30 (13) "Gross Gaming Revenue" or "GGR" is the total amount of money wagered by players minus  
31 the winnings paid out, representing the casino gaming revenue that the licensee earns before deducting  
32 expenses and taxes.

33 (14) "Host county" is the county in which the casino site is located and receives portions of the  
34 privilege tax pursuant to Section 1-36-70.

35 (15) "Initial license" is the first casino license issued pursuant to provisions of this chapter and  
36 approved by the commission at the request of an eligible county, to own and operate the casino in South

1 Carolina.

2 (16) "Key personnel" means principals or employees with control over decision making of a  
3 licensee to manage and advance the business operations of a licensee in this State.

4 (17) "Licensee" means the person licensed pursuant to provisions of this chapter that is ultimately  
5 responsible for ownership, development, operation, and management of the casino.

6 (18) "Lottery" means a game of chance as defined in the South Carolina Education Lottery Act.

7 (19) "Owner" means any person having five percent or more ownership of a licensee.

8 (20) "Operator" means the person in control of daily operations of the casino licensed under this  
9 chapter.

10 (21) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, unincorporated association, or other  
11 legal entity.

12 (22) "Suitability license" means a certificate issued by the commission finding the individual  
13 meets the qualifications and character requirements as may be required or established by the regulations  
14 of the commission to work for or with the licensee in the ownership, operation, or management of  
15 gaming activities of the casino.

16 (23) "Vendor" means any person supplying Class III gaming equipment to the casino.

17  
18 Section 1-36-20. (A) The ownership, development, and operation of a licensed casino, participation  
19 in casino gaming within the licensed facility, and ancillary activities are lawful only when conducted  
20 pursuant to the limited provisions of this chapter.

21 (B) A person may not engage in any activities in this State that require a casino license pursuant to  
22 this chapter unless all necessary licenses have been obtained and are maintained pursuant to the  
23 provisions of this chapter.

24 (C) By and through this chapter, the State expressly intends that competition for such licenses and  
25 the options available for casino sites be limited and restricted.

26  
27 Section 1-36-30. (A) There is established the South Carolina Gaming Commission to provide  
28 governance and oversight of casino gaming authorized under this chapter. The commission and its  
29 employees are subject to the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code, South Carolina  
30 Administrative Procedures Act, South Carolina Ethics Reform Act, and South Carolina Freedom of  
31 Information Act. Venue for the commission is in Richland County.

32 (B) The commission is composed of three members. One member must be appointed by the Governor  
33 who shall serve as chairman of the commission, one member must be appointed by the President of the  
34 Senate, and one member must be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Decisions  
35 of the commission must be made by majority vote. A quorum of the commission is two or more  
36 members.

1 (C) A member must:

2 (1) be a resident of the State of South Carolina;

3 (2) not have been convicted of a felony offense or bookmaking or other form of unlawful  
4 gambling. A background investigation must be conducted on each commission nominee. The  
5 commission shall pay for the cost of the investigation and may contract with the State Law Enforcement  
6 Division or appropriate federal agency for the performance of the investigation;

7 (3) meet the qualifications for electors as provided in Section 7-5-120; and

8 (4) not have been an elected public official, an office that would be considered for purposes of the  
9 prohibition against dual-office holding, as provided in Section 24, Article III of the Constitution of this  
10 State, and Section 2-1-100, for at least one year before appointment.

11 (D) An individual is not eligible for appointment as a member of the commission if the individual:

12 (1) is an officer or official of a political party;

13 (2) has a direct pecuniary interest in the gaming industry;

14 (3) has been convicted of a felony;

15 (4) has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving gambling, theft, computer-related offenses,  
16 forgery, perjury, dishonesty, or unlawfully selling or providing a product or substance to a minor;

17 (5) has been convicted of a violation under this chapter; or

18 (6) has been convicted of an offense in a federal court, military court, or court of another state,  
19 territory, or jurisdiction that under the laws of this State would disqualify him pursuant to items (3),  
20 (4), or (5).

21 (E) In making appointments to the commission, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives, as appropriate, shall consider legal, financial, accounting, and  
23 marketing experience and race, gender, and other demographic factors to ensure nondiscrimination,  
24 inclusion, and representation of all segments of the State to the greatest extent possible.

25 (F) The term of each commission member begins on March first and shall continue for a period of  
26 four years with each new appointment or reappointment being four years and validly serving until his  
27 successor is appointed and qualified. Vacancies, if any, must be filled for the balance of the  
28 then-remaining term and an appointment to the vacant office must be made by the appointing authority  
29 that made the original appointment and under the same standards as the original appointment, mutatis  
30 mutandis.

31 (G) A member of the commission may be removed from the commission by the appointing authority  
32 if, in the opinion of the appointing authority, the member has committed misfeasance or malfeasance  
33 in office or neglect of duty.

34 (H) The commission shall meet no less than quarterly and may hold additional regular and special  
35 meetings at the call of the commission. The members shall not receive a salary but may be reimbursed  
36 for per diem and travel expenses as provided for commissions and boards.

1

2 Section 1-36-40. (A) The commission shall appoint an executive director and provide for the  
3 compensation of an executive director which may not be based upon or a function of profitability or  
4 revenue of any casino. The executive director must be an employee of the commission who directs the  
5 day-to-day operations and management of the commission and is vested with powers and duties  
6 specified by the commission and by law. The executive director serves at the pleasure of the  
7 commission. The commission may extend a multiyear employment agreement to the executive director.

8 (B)(1) The executive director shall direct and supervise all administrative and technical activities as  
9 provided for in this chapter, regulations promulgated pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act,  
10 and policies and procedures adopted by the commission. It is the duty of the executive director to:

11 (a) employ and direct necessary personnel;

12 (b) employ by contract and compensate necessary persons and firms, except that such contracts  
13 must not be with an entity for the purpose of having that entity undertake the organization and conduct  
14 of the commission;

15 (c) prepare a budget for the approval of the commission;

16 (d) report monthly to the board a full and complete statement of revenues and expenses for the  
17 preceding six months or such other period as the commission may require; and

18 (e) perform other duties as provided for in this chapter and assigned to the executive director by  
19 the commission.

20 (2) The commission shall keep and maintain the licensing fees and application fees to fund the  
21 administrative and operational expenses of the commission.

22 (C) The executive director may not contribute to or make independent expenditures relative to the  
23 campaign of a candidate for the General Assembly or a statewide constitutional office, to a political  
24 party, as defined in Section 8-13-1300, or to a committee, as defined in Section 8-13-1300. An  
25 executive director who violates this section must, notwithstanding any contract or agreement to the  
26 contrary, be immediately terminated.

27

28 Section 1-36-50. (A) The commission shall hire and provide for the compensation of an internal  
29 auditor and necessary staff who may be employees of the commission and who are vested with the  
30 powers and duties specified by the commission and by law. The internal auditor shall report directly to  
31 the commission. Except for the internal auditor, the commission may delegate the hiring of necessary  
32 staff to the executive director.

33 (B) Beginning one year after the establishment of the commission, and every three years thereafter,  
34 or by the request of ten members of the House of Representatives or five members of the Senate, the  
35 Legislative Audit Council shall conduct a management performance audit of the commission. The cost  
36 of this audit is an operating expense of the commission.

1  
2 Section 1-36-60. (A)(1) The initial casino license may be issued to a qualifying applicant pursuant  
3 to a request from the county council of an eligible county. Once the initial license has been issued at  
4 the request of one of the eligible counties, no additional casino licenses may be issued for a period of  
5 ten years. Any subsequent casino license, other than a renewal of an existing initial license by the  
6 commission, may only be authorized under the provisions of this chapter.

7 (2) The term of the initial license must be for a period of fifteen years and may be renewed by the  
8 commission for subsequent periods of five years each.

9 (B) The county council of the eligible county may request the initial license be issued to a qualified  
10 individual or entity, subject to the review and approval of the commission. No county may have more  
11 than one request pending before the commission for its review of an applicant's eligibility for a casino  
12 license within such county at any given time. The request must identify and include:

13 (1) a copy of the ordinance requesting the initial license, and the approved and executed  
14 development agreement between the eligible county and the applicant;

15 (2) the application of the proposed licensee complying with subsection (C);

16 (3) the specific site of the proposed casino; and

17 (4) an economic impact study meeting the requirements of subsection (D)(5).

18 (C) The commission shall review and issue a casino license to a qualifying licensee. The applicant  
19 shall submit the application fee of five hundred thousand dollars and a licensing fee of two million  
20 dollars. If the application is denied, the licensing fee must be refunded. The application fee is  
21 nonrefundable.

22 (D) An applicant for a casino license shall submit the application on a form and in a manner in  
23 accordance with regulations as may be prescribed and established by the commission, which shall  
24 include those items listed in this section. To the extent no such regulations exist at the time of the initial  
25 submission by applicant and eligible county, said application to the commission must include:

26 (1) the identification of each owner associated with the applicant;

27 (2) a national criminal background check for each individual identified in item (1) conducted by  
28 the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division or another appropriate law enforcement agency;

29 (3) notice and a description of any final civil judgments obtained against the applicant pertaining  
30 to antitrust or security regulation laws of the federal government, of this State or of another state,  
31 jurisdiction, province, or country within the past ten years;

32 (4) evidence that establishes the applicant, or individual with control of the applicant has:

33 (a) at least ten years of experience in casino gaming;

34 (b) ownership or control of the proposed casino site in the eligible county for a period of no less  
35 than two years prior to the date of the development agreement being approved by the eligible county;

36 (c) not served as an elected public official for at least five years prior to the effective date of the

1 development agreement;

2 (d) no felony convictions or, any convictions for bookmaking, or other forms of unlawful  
3 gambling in any jurisdiction; and

4 (e) meets the qualifications of an elector under Section 7-5-120;

5 (5) an economic impact study assuming an investment in real property improvements and  
6 necessary infrastructure improvements in connection with the proposed casino site of no less than two  
7 hundred million dollars. The EIS further shall set forth:

8 (a) a market study of gaming within the State;

9 (b) identification of economic impacts on the closest municipality, eligible county, and the  
10 State;

11 (c) projected development costs and time frames or phases for development;

12 (d) traffic counts;

13 (e) employment opportunities and impacts therefrom; and

14 (f) projected gross gaming revenues;

15 (6) information, documentation, and assurances concerning financial background and resources as  
16 may be required to establish the financial stability, integrity, and responsibility of the applicant and  
17 each owner. The commission may consider relevant evidence of financial stability, including requests  
18 for tax information from the South Carolina Department of Revenue;

19 (7) information, documentation, and materials as may be required to establish that the applicant  
20 has sufficient business ability and casino gaming experience as to establish the likelihood of the  
21 creation and maintenance of a successful, efficient casino operation.

22 (E) The commission shall also consider, but may waive in its discretion, whether the applicant or  
23 individual with control or ownership has:

24 (1) previously obtained a casino gaming-related license in the State or other jurisdictions;

25 (2) previously obtained a license from the State of South Carolina Department of Revenue and  
26 remained in good standing during the pendency of that license;

27 (3) has previously owned or been licensed to place casino gaming equipment; and

28 (4) is a resident of the State of South Carolina.

29 (F) Each person holding a casino license pursuant to this chapter has a continuing duty to inform the  
30 commission as soon as commercially reasonable of any change in status relating to any information  
31 provided in connection with the initial application or any renewal application for a casino license.

32 (G) A person issued a license to operate a casino pursuant to this chapter is subject to all provisions  
33 of this chapter relating to licensure, regulation, and civil and criminal penalties.

34 (H)(1) A background investigation must be conducted for all principal owners, operators, and key  
35 personnel, and the cost of such investigations shall be borne by the commission.

36 (2) The commission may require that certain persons directly and actively involved in the

1 administration or supervision of the casino gaming activities of licensees be found suitable so long as  
2 that involvement continues. The following persons shall apply for a finding of suitability and, if  
3 determined appropriate by the commission, issued a suitability license by the commission to continue  
4 with a licensee in ownership, operation or control of the casino:

5 (a) each person who has five percent or more ownership in or control of the licensed entity;

6 (b) each person who serves in any audit or compliance committees of the licensed entity; and

7 (c) any executive, employee, or agent of a licensee having the power to exercise a significant  
8 influence over decisions concerning any part of the operation of a licensee.

9 (3) Except for those persons ineligible to participate pursuant to this chapter, a person who is no  
10 less than twenty-one years of age or older may participate in casino gaming within the licensed facility.

11 (4) The following individuals or categories of individuals may not, directly or indirectly,  
12 participate in casino gaming in this State:

13 (a) a member, officer, or employee of the commission;

14 (b) with respect to a licensee, a principal owner, partner, member of the board of directors,  
15 officer, or supervisory employee with that licensee;

16 (c) with respect to a vendor of a licensee, a principal owner, partner, member of the board of  
17 directors, officer, or supervisory employee with a licensee that vendor contracts with;

18 (d) a contractor, subcontractor, consultant, or employee of a licensee, if the individual is directly  
19 involved in the licensee's operation of casino gaming; and

20 (e) a person subject to a contract with the commission if the contract contains a provision  
21 prohibiting the person from participating in casino gaming.

22 (I) The commission shall keep all information, records, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda,  
23 or other data supplied to or used by the commission in the course of its review or investigation of an  
24 application for or renewal of a casino license as described in this chapter confidential and shall use that  
25 material only to evaluate the applicant for a casino license or renewal. Nothing in this chapter or any  
26 other law may be construed to permit the disclosure of such information, records, interviews, reports,  
27 statements, memoranda, or other data supplied to or used by the commission pursuant to this section  
28 and such materials are exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 30-4-40.

29 (J) Upon review of the application, the commission shall approve or deny an application for a casino  
30 license no more than thirty days after receipt of an application. Once issued, the casino license may not  
31 be transferred without the express written permission of the commission. Any change of ownership of  
32 the licensee entity must be immediately reported to the commission if such change results in any  
33 individual or entity meeting or exceeding reporting requirements for an owner.

34 (K) The term of the casino license begins to run with the commencement of casino gaming and an  
35 additional annual fee, in an amount equal to the application fee set forth in subsection (C), is due on or  
36 before a full calendar year from commencement of gaming and continuing for every year of operation

1 of the casino.

2 (L) A licensee may renew its casino license by submitting an application on a form, in such manner,  
3 and in accordance with such requirements as may be prescribed by the commission. A licensee shall  
4 submit the renewal application, renewal application fee of five hundred thousand dollars and the license  
5 fee of two million dollars with its application for the renewal of its casino license. If the application is  
6 denied, the licensing fee must be refunded. The application fee is nonrefundable. The fees collected  
7 from licensees pursuant to this section must be used by the commission to pay the actual operating and  
8 administrative expenses incurred pursuant to this chapter.

9

10 Section 1-36-70. (A) It is a taxable privilege to operate a casino in this State under a casino license  
11 issued in accordance with this chapter. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a licensee shall pay  
12 a monthly privilege tax on its adjusted gross gaming revenue (GGR) in accordance with this section.

13 (B)(1) There is imposed upon the adjusted GGR of a licensee a privilege tax of fifteen percent.

14 (2) If a licensee's GGR is negative, such licensee may carry over such negative amount to  
15 subsequent months.

16 (C) A licensee shall complete and submit the return for the preceding month by electronic  
17 communication to the executive director, on or before the fifteenth calendar day, commencing on the  
18 first full calendar month following commencement of casino gaming, in the form prescribed by the  
19 executive director, which must provide:

20 (1) the GGR on all gaming equipment during that month;

21 (2) the tax amount for which the licensee is liable; and

22 (3) any additional information necessary in the computation and collection of the tax on adjusted  
23 GGR required by the director.

24 (D) The proceeds from the privilege tax must be credited to the general fund.

25 (E) The gross gaming revenues of a licensee are not subject to additional state or local taxation not  
26 prescribed by this section including, local business license taxes, other than state income taxes. Other  
27 revenues of a casino including, without limitation, retail sales, sales of prepared meals and beverages,  
28 rents and other charges for accommodations, are subject to sales and use taxes as provided by law.

29

30 Section 1-36-80. A person who engages in ownership, operation of a licensed casino, supplies  
31 gaming equipment or otherwise acts as a vendor to the licensed casino or participates in casino gaming  
32 while at the licensed facility is not in violation of gambling and lottery prohibitions pursuant to Chapter  
33 19, Title 16 and Chapter 21, Title 12.

34

35 Section 1-36-90. (A) The commission may expend, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, monies  
36 received from any source, including income from the commission's operations, for effectuating its



1 purposes, including the payment of the initial expenses of organization, administration, and operation  
2 of the commission.

3 (B) The commission must be self-sustaining and self-funded. Monies in the state general fund must  
4 not be used or obligated to pay the expenses of the commission.

5 (C) The commission may purchase, lease, or lease-purchase goods or services necessary for  
6 effectuating the purposes of this chapter. The commission may make procurements to promote and  
7 ensure security, honesty, fairness, and integrity in the operation and administration of the commission  
8 and the objectives of raising net proceeds for the benefit of the public.

9

10 SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

11

---XX---