

HB 1212. Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:00 AM

Good morning Chairman Headland and Committee Members

My name is Mike Motschenbacher and I'm here testifying on behalf of the ND Gaming Alliance

We are kindly asking for a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1212

In addition to the testimony you have already heard from others in support of this bill which we agree with, one thing I wanted to address was the fiscal note. I know it looks like a big number, but in short, this was money that was never intended to be in the general fund. In the 2019 session, HB 1533 would have addressed this issue but it failed and as a result, the state accidentally received approximately 30 million dollars which was much more than what was requested and estimated by the Attorney General's office to regulate gaming. It was simply an unintended windfall. The fiscal note which from HB 1533 was \$8.4 million which would have gone to the AG office for regulation and would have diverted \$2.8 million to the general fund. This \$30,000,000 could have and should have been distributed to charities who in turn could have supported further Veterans Organizations, Youth Activities, Disabled Children, and many many more good causes. Instead, it was accidentally diverted into the general fund.

I'll give one example of a small charity and how this bill will affect them. The Washburn American Legion paid \$25,525 in taxes under current law in Q4 of 2020. If this bill passes, the same charity would only pay \$7875 in taxes. In a town of approximately 1200 people, \$18,000 can go a long way to help the community.

So once again, we would ask for a DO PASS recommendation from the committee and would stand for any questions you may have at this time.

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HB 1533 fiscal note from 2019 session link <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/66-2019/fiscal-notes/19-0600-06000-fn.pdf>