



Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming

January 28, 2025

Testimony in OPPOSITION of Senate Bill 2224

Madame Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

For the record, my name is Scott Meske and I'm here on behalf of the ND Gaming Alliance. We are a member-based organization representing all facets of the charitable gaming industry including charities, hospitality, manufacturers, distributors, veterans' organizations and fraternal organizations.

We are here today in opposition of SB 2224.

The gaming commission is imperative for many reasons. There are 242 pages of administrative rules that are promulgated through the administrative rule process. Overall approval of any changes to administrative rules are voted on by the gaming commission and then sent to the legislative administrative rules committee for final approval. By removing the gaming commission from the equation, this puts the attorney general as the sole source of any regulation within the industry. We are assuming this bill may have been brought due to the fact that the gaming commission has not met in over a year. There are reasons for that, including the fact that there is a several months-long kiosk trial currently underway, and when that trial period is over, the results of that will need to be added to administrative rules at which time the gaming commission will vote on the changes. The gaming commission cannot meet until this part is complete and rule changes are submitted.

At all levels of government, there are checks and balances. At the national and state levels, we have three branches of government which are all meant to keep everyone in check. Our founders knew that it would be a bad idea to give too much power to one body, and this is exactly what SB 2224 does by giving 100% of the oversight to one regulator.



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Although we think the Attorney General has done a fine job overall regulating the industry, taking away this level of checks and balances sets a precarious precedent.

With that, we ask this committee give SB 2224 a Do Not Pass recommendation and I would stand for any questions.

Thank you.