

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H. F. 2658
Version: As introduced

DATE: February 21, 2002

Authors: Erickson

Subject: County licensing of casinos

Analyst: John Williams, 651-296-5045

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill authorizes counties to license privately-operated casinos, and proposes a constitutional amendment to permit such casinos.

Section

- 1 **Sales of gambling devices.** Allows licensed distributors of gambling devices to sell them to licensed casinos.
- 2 **Gambling devices.** Exempts licensed casinos from prohibitions against gambling devices in businesses.
- 3 **Casinos.** Allows counties to adopt ordinances allowing for issuance of one casino license in the county, where blackjack and video gambling is conducted. Provides for qualifications and investigation of licensees. Requires at least one public hearing in the city or town where the casino would be located.
- 4 **Ordinance requirements.** Requires ordinances to provide for casino employee licensing, game procedures, security plan, exclusions of undesirable persons, and annual audits.
- 5 **Tax.** Allows a county to impose a tax of up to 10 percent of gross gambling receipts, in lieu of state taxes.
- 6 **Gambling debts.** Exempts casinos from laws making gambling debts void.
- 7 **Criminal code.** Exempts casinos from criminal code prohibitions against gambling.
- 989 **Constitutional amendment.** Proposes a constitutional amendment at the 2002 general election to authorize the legislature to allow counties to issue one license each for a casino and tax the gross receipts.
- 10 **Effective date.** Makes sections effective January 1, 2003, contingent on passage of the constitutional amendment.