GAMING. Requests the Louisiana Gaming Control Board to report on the fiscal impact of the promotional play exception to the definitions of net gaming proceeds, gross revenue, and net slot machine proceeds.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Gaming Control Board to report on the fiscal impact of the promotional play exception to the definitions of net gaming proceeds, gross revenue, and net slot machine proceeds.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 5 of the 2021 First Extraordinary Session of the legislature addresses Louisiana's policy anomaly of including in the formula for taxation for license and franchise fees, direct payments, and other state taxes, the licensee's own dollars that are distributed to patrons in the form of promotional play vouchers, chips, coupons, or credits without an exchange of money; and

WHEREAS, it is generally known that the COVID 19 pandemic and the guidelines of social distancing have had a profound effect on this industry, and consequently on the taxes generated in Louisiana by riverboat gaming, land based casino gaming, and slot machine gaming at racetracks; and

WHEREAS, promotional play is proven to be one of the most effective marketing tools for the gaming industry, and particularly our neighboring state gaming establishments, heavily engage this tool to drive patrons to their establishments in their efforts to grow their revenue; and

WHEREAS, unlike our neighboring states, Louisiana's taxing of a licensee's own
dollars distributed to patrons in the form of promotional play creates a disincentive to using
this marketing tool by Louisiana licensees; and

WHEREAS, according to testimony before Senate Committee on Judiciary B, Senate
Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs and the House Committee on Ways and Means,
state policy that does not discourage the use of promotional play will greatly assist Louisiana
licensees in growing gaming revenue and ultimately increasing the amount of taxes
generated by their industry; and

WHEREAS, it is helpful and responsible for policymakers to allow the change in
definitions to be fully implemented and gather data over time to assess its effect on state
taxes generated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
urge and request that in the event Senate Bill No. 5 is enacted and becomes law, the
Louisiana Gaming Control Board is to report on the state fiscal impact of the promotional
play exception to the definitions of net gaming proceeds, gross revenue, and net slot
machines proceeds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall use data from state Fiscal Years
2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as prior fiscal years to assess the overall fiscal impact of the
change in definitions to tax revenues and state payments generated from riverboat gaming,
land based casino gaming, and slot machine gaming at race tracks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall be submitted to the Senate
Committee on Judiciary B, the Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, the House
Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice and the House Committee on Ways
and Means no later than January 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
Louisiana Gaming Control Board.
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST
SCR 29 Original 2020 First Extraordinary Session Johns

Requests the Louisiana Gaming Control Board report on the state fiscal impact of the promotional play exception to the definitions of net gaming proceeds, gross revenue, and net slot machines proceeds.