
DIGEST

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HB 883 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Schlegel

Abstract: Prohibits platform providers and financial transaction providers from facilitating gambling by computer and authorizes the attorney general to take action against providers alleged to be doing so.

Present law prohibits gambling by computer and provides penalties for violations.

Proposed law adds certain actions which constitute gambling by computer, including the offering of dual-currency games that simulate any form of gambling.

Proposed law provides definitions for "financial transaction provider" and "platform provider".

Proposed law increases the penalty for offering gambling games by computer from up to a \$20,000 fine and up to five years imprisonment with or without hard labor to up to a \$100,000 fine and up to five years imprisonment with or without hard labor.

Proposed law prohibits certain entities, including financial transaction providers and platform providers, from supporting or facilitating another party who offers gambling by computer and provides a penalty of a fine up to \$20,000, up to five years imprisonment with or without hard labor, or both.

Proposed law prohibits financial transaction providers from accepting or processing a transaction it believes to be in connection with gambling by computer and allows the provider to block the transaction on its own initiative.

Proposed law prohibits platform providers from receiving or transmitting communications related to the crime of gambling by computer.

Proposed law provides that each wager offered or accepted constitutes a separate violation of gambling by computer.

Proposed law requires the court to order forfeiture of any profits made by gambling by computer.

Proposed law authorizes the attorney general to send a cease and desist notice to anyone who operates, conducts, or promotes gambling by computer, including platform providers and financial transaction providers who allow the exchange of information regarding gambling by computer or financial transactions involved in gambling by computer.

Proposed law requires the attorney general to maintain a list of each cease and desist notice sent pursuant to proposed law on the attorney general's website.

Proposed law provides for the manner of service of the cease and desist notice.

Proposed law states that a cease and desist notice found on the attorney general's website is prima facie evidence that anyone acting in support knew that gambling by computer was occurring.

Proposed law further authorizes the attorney general to exercise his authority in furtherance of investigating gambling by computer and to utilize the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, gaming enforcement division.

Proposed law authorizes the attorney general to request a court to order a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, injunction, or ex parte injunction to prevent gambling by computer.

Proposed law provides that relief granted pursuant to a court order will be limited to gambling by computer activity and will specify the website to which it applies.

(Amends R.S. 14:90.3(B), (C)(intro. para.), (1), (9), and (10), and (D)-(K); Adds R.S. 14:90.3(C)(11) and (12) and (L)-(R) and R.S. 27:19.1 and 19.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Change all references of "financial transaction provider" to "merchant payment processor" and provide a definition for "merchant payment processor".
2. Clarify that "client" refers to individuals physically located in Louisiana.
3. Provide that certain provisions regarding merchant payment processors do not apply to a federally insured financial institution, its subsidiaries or affiliates, or any payment card network.