

State of Louisiana
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SENATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

June 12, 2025

The Honorable Cameron Henry President of the Senate 900 North Third Street Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Yolanda Dixon Secretary of the Senate 900 North Third Street, Basement Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Senate Bill 181 of the 2025 Regular Session by Senator Adam Bass

Dear President Henry and Secretary Dixon:

I am writing to inform you that I have vetoed Senate Bill 181 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session. This bill attempts to criminalize certain secondary gambling activities on the internet that are already prohibited in Louisiana. Our current Louisiana Gaming Control Board has the regulatory authority, control, and jurisdiction over all aspects of gaming activities and operations pursuant to the Louisiana Gaming Control Law. Furthermore, the Board, the Louisiana State Police Gaming Enforcement Division, and the Louisiana Attorney General's Office are all tasked with ensuring the initial and continuing suitability of all gaming licensees and permittees and eliminating, to the extent possible, known criminal and corrupt influences on Louisiana's gaming industry.

The Board is already taking active steps to combat illegal gambling in Louisiana, especially against illegal offshore wagering and illegal online sweepstakes companies operating in Louisiana. Most recently, the Board took successful action to uphold the integrity of gaming laws in Louisiana by issuing a cease-and-desist order to Harp Media B.V. d/b/a Bovada to immediately halt its illegal online gambling activities within Louisiana. The Board's firm stance against such operations is aimed at protecting Louisiana residents from unregulated gambling activities that violate state laws. The Board, the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, and the LSP Gaming Division are all monitoring this type of activity and will continue to issue additional cease-and-desist letters to similar illegal offshore wagering and illegal online sweepstakes companies that intentionally design their business models to circumvent Louisiana gaming laws and regulations.

The Board and its regulatory partners will take further action as deemed necessary to enforce state gaming laws, protect patrons and bettors, and maintain the integrity of Louisiana's gaming industry. The Board remains dedicated to promoting a secure and regulated gaming environment in Louisiana. As such, this bill is a solution in search of a problem that is already being solved by

our current system, and some of the language in this bill is overly broad and could be interpreted in an adverse manner which may harm or impede our current enforcement actions taken against these bad actors.

For these reasons, Senate Bill 181 is not necessary.

For Louisiana,

Governor

Enclosure: Returned Senate Bill 181