



Iowa General Assembly

2004 Committee Briefings

Legislative Services Agency – Legal Services Division

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SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS OF GAMBLING ON IOWANS STUDY COMMITTEE

Meeting Dates: [December 13, 2004](#) | [September 15, 2004](#)

Purpose. This compilation of briefings on legislative interim committee meetings and other meetings and topics of interest to the Iowa General Assembly, written by the Legal Services Division staff of the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency, describes committee activities or topics. The briefings were originally distributed in the Iowa Legislative Interim Calendar and Briefing. Official minutes, reports, and other detailed information concerning the committee or topic addressed by a briefing can be obtained from the committee's Internet page listed above, from the Iowa General Assembly's Internet page at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us>, or from the agency connected with the meeting or topic described.

SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS OF GAMBLING ON IOWANS STUDY COMMITTEE

December 13, 2004

Chairperson: Senator Stewart Iverson, Jr.

Vice Chairperson: Representative Sandra Greiner

Overview. The Studies Committee received an in-person progress report from the consultants retained by the Legislature to conduct a study of the socioeconomic effects of gambling on Iowans. Dr. Deepak Chhabra and Dr. Gene Lutz, both of the University of Northern Iowa, presented an update on the conduct of the study.

Gambling Study Description. The consultants indicated that the study objectives are to determine the economic impact of gambling at existing Iowa casinos on the local community, the socioeconomic characteristics of gamblers, the social impact of gambling on the local community, and the impact of problem gambling. The consultants stated that the major research methods they would use would be historical data, telephone surveys of local residents, telephone interviews with key personnel, and use of an economic impact model. In conducting the study, the consultants indicated they would examine four study areas within Iowa. Study area I would be all of Iowa, area II would be that area in Iowa within a 50-mile radius of a casino, area III would be counties with a casino, and area IV would be based upon casino employee zip codes.

The consultants briefed the Committee on the data collected so far and described current challenges in obtaining data on all casino visitors and from obtaining information from several convention and visitor bureaus and chambers of commerce.

Next Steps. The consultants' PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the Internet page for the gambling study.

LSA Contacts: Ed Cook, Legal Services, (515) 281-3994; Ann Ver Huel, Legal Services, (515) 281-3837; John Pollak, Legal Services, (515) 281-3818

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Socioeconomic Effects of Gambling Contract. The Studies Committee met and selected Per Mar Security Services Inc., subject to execution of a contract, to conduct a study of the socioeconomic cost of gambling on Iowans. On October 13, 2004, Per Mar is required to submit a written progress report. On December 6, 2004, Per Mar is required to make an in-person presentation to the Studies Committee concerning the progress of the study.

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