

# Legislative Analysis



## **ALLOW PERSON TO REMOVE NAME FROM DISASSOCIATED PERSONS LIST**

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4686 (H-2) as referred to second committee**

**Sponsor: Rep. Ryan Berman**

**1st Committee: Regulatory Reform**

**2nd Committee: Ways and Means**

**Complete to 3-10-20**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### **SUMMARY:**

House Bill 4686 would amend the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act to allow a person to request removal of his or her name from the list of disassociated persons maintained under that act. Placement on this list subjects a person to being charged with criminal trespassing if he or she enters the premises of a casino licensed in Michigan.

1997 PA 69 provided for the creation of a “disassociated persons” list for the voluntary participation of problem gamblers who wish to make it illegal for themselves to enter a casino. Placement on the list is for the rest of the person’s life. If a disassociated person is found at a casino, the person is immediately removed from the premises, any winnings are confiscated by the Michigan Gaming Control Board for deposit in the Compulsive Gaming Prevention Fund, and a criminal complaint for trespassing is filed. Currently, only the three Detroit casinos are licensed by the state.

The bill would enable a person who has been on the list of dissociated persons for at least five years to submit a form to the Michigan Gaming Control Board to have his or her name removed from the list. After receiving the form, the board would have to notify each casino licensee, the Department of the Attorney General, and the Department of State Police that the individual’s name has been removed from the list.

Currently, information on the application form to be placed on the disassociated person’s list is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act and would not be open for public inspection. The bill would extend the exemption to information contained on the application form requesting removal from the disassociated person’s list, as well.

MCL 432.225

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 4686 likely would increase administrative responsibilities for the Michigan Gaming Control Board. However, it is estimated that current appropriations and personnel are sufficient to accommodate any marginal costs.

According to the Michigan Gaming Control Board in March 2019, there are a little over 4,600 people on the disassociated persons list, and between 10 and 12 disassociated

gamblers are discovered at the casinos each month. According to the most recent data available, approximately \$540,000 in winnings has been seized from persons on the disassociated persons list over the last five years. Since 2005, more than \$1.0 million has been seized and over 1,000 trespassing cases involving disassociated gamblers have been prosecuted.

To the extent that the bill reduces the number of individuals on the disassociated persons list and thereby reduces the amount of winnings that are seized from disassociated persons who return to the casino and win, the bill would reduce revenues to the Compulsive Gaming Prevention Fund.

The bill could also result in a decrease in costs for the state and for local units of government. There could be a decrease in costs related to county jails and/or local misdemeanor probation supervision. The costs of local incarceration in county jails and local misdemeanor probation supervision vary by jurisdiction. There could be a decrease in costs for local court systems, depending on how provisions of the bill affected court caseloads and related administrative costs. There could also be a decrease in penal fine revenues, which would decrease funding for public and county law libraries, the constitutionally designated recipients of those revenues.

## **POSITIONS:**

A representative of the Michigan Gaming Control Board testified in support of the bill. (2-18-20)

A representative of the Michigan Association on Problem Gambling testified in support of the bill. (2-18-20)

The National Council on Problem Gambling indicated no position on the bill. (2-18-20)

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