

**Adopted**  
**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill No. 2510**

**BY: Committee**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

34       **SECTION 1.** Section 97-33-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
35 amended as follows:  
36       97-33-1. Except as otherwise provided in Section 97-33-8 and  
37 where not otherwise exempted, if any person shall encourage,  
38 promote or play at any game, play or amusement, other than a fight  
39 or fighting match between dogs, for money or other valuable thing,  
40 or shall wager or bet, promote or encourage the wagering or  
41 betting of any money or other valuable things, upon any game,  
42 play, amusement, cockfight, Indian ball play or duel, other than a  
43 fight or fighting match between dogs, or upon the result of any



election, event or contingency whatever, including any online,  
interactive, or computerized version thereof, upon conviction  
thereof, he shall be fined in a sum not more than Five Hundred  
Dollars (\$500.00) per occurrence; and, unless such fine and costs  
be immediately paid, shall be imprisoned for any period not more  
than ninety (90) days. If any person shall operate an online  
platform that facilitates illegal wagering, such person shall be  
guilty of a felony. Upon each conviction, a person shall be fined  
in a sum not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00),  
or shall be imprisoned for a term of years not to exceed ten (10)  
years, or by both fine and imprisonment. The assets, rights, and  
privileges used in connection with violations of the provisions of  
this section shall be liable to forfeiture, to the State of  
Mississippi or to the county in which a violation is committed.  
However, this section shall not apply to betting, gaming or  
wagering:

(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1  
whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of  
Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south  
of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of  
Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay,  
Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, and in which the registered voters  
of the county in which the port is located have not voted to  
prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as  
provided in Section 19-3-79;



69           (b) In a structure located, in whole or in part, on  
70 shore in any of the three (3) most southern counties in the State  
71 of Mississippi in which the registered voters of the county have  
72 voted to allow such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels  
73 as provided in Section 19-3-79, if:

74           (i) The structure is owned, leased or controlled  
75 by a person possessing a gaming license, as defined in Section  
76 75-76-5, to conduct legal gaming on a cruise vessel under  
77 paragraph (a) of this section;

78           (ii) The part of the structure in which licensed  
79 gaming activities are conducted is located entirely in an area  
80 which is located no more than eight hundred (800) feet from the  
81 mean high-water line (as defined in Section 29-15-1) of the waters  
82 within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State  
83 of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in  
84 the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St.  
85 Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, or, with regard to  
86 Harrison County only, no farther north than the southern boundary  
87 of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater; and

88           (iii) In the case of a structure that is located  
89 in whole or part on shore, the part of the structure in which  
90 licensed gaming activities are conducted shall lie adjacent to  
91 state waters south of the three (3) most southern counties in the  
92 State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis  
93 Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay. When the site upon which the



94 structure is located consists of a parcel of real property,  
95 easements and rights-of-way for public streets and highways shall  
96 not be construed to interrupt the contiguous nature of the parcel,  
97 nor shall the footage contained within the easements and  
98 rights-of-way be counted in the calculation of the distances  
99 specified in subparagraph (ii);

100 (c) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever  
101 such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within  
102 any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the  
103 registered voters of the county in which the port is located have  
104 not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels  
105 as provided in Section 19-3-79; or

106 (d) That is legal under the laws of the State of  
107 Mississippi.

108 (e) An action to prosecute a violation of this section  
109 may, in the discretion of the Attorney General or prosecuting  
110 attorney, be tried in the county in which the violation occurred  
111 or in Hinds County.

112 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-33-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
113 amended as follows:

114 97-33-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in Section  
115 97-33-8, it shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm,  
116 copartnership or corporation to have in possession, own, control,  
117 display, or operate any cane rack, knife rack, artful dodger,  
118 punch board, roll down, merchandise wheel, slot machine, pinball



119 machine, or similar device or devices. Provided, however, that  
120 this section shall not be so construed as to make unlawful the  
121 ownership, possession, control, display or operation of any  
122 antique coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12, or any music  
123 machine or bona fide automatic vending machine where the purchaser  
124 receives exactly the same quantity of merchandise on each  
125 operation of said machine. Any slot machine other than an antique  
126 coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12 which delivers, or is  
127 so constructed as that by operation thereof it will deliver to the  
128 operator thereof anything of value in varying quantities, in  
129 addition to the merchandise received, and any slot machine other  
130 than an antique coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12 that  
131 is constructed in such manner as that slugs, tokens, coins or  
132 similar devices are, or may be, used and delivered to the operator  
133 thereof in addition to merchandise of any sort contained in such  
134 machine, is hereby declared to be a gambling device, and shall be  
135 deemed unlawful under the provisions of this section. Provided,  
136 however, that pinball machines which do not return to the operator  
137 or player thereof anything but free additional games or plays  
138 shall not be deemed to be gambling devices, and neither this  
139 section nor any other law shall be construed to prohibit same.  
140 Any online, interactive, or computerized version of any game as  
141 defined in Section 75-76-5(k) or any other game of chance or  
142 digital simulation thereof, including, but not limited to, online  
143 race books, online sports pools, and online sweepstakes



144 casino-style games, is hereby declared to be a gambling device,  
145 and the offering for play or operating an online or interactive  
146 platform that offers for play such games within the State of  
147 Mississippi shall be deemed unlawful under the provisions of this  
148 section unless licensed and authorized by the State.

149 (2) No property right shall exist in any person, natural or  
150 artificial, or be vested in such person, in any or all of the  
151 devices described herein that are not exempted from the provisions  
152 of this section; and all such devices are hereby declared to be at  
153 all times subject to confiscation and destruction, and their  
154 possession shall be unlawful, except when in the possession of  
155 officers carrying out the provisions of this section. It shall be  
156 the duty of all law enforcing officers to seize and immediately  
157 destroy all such machines and devices.

158 (3) \* \* \* Each violation of the provisions of this section  
159 shall be deemed a \* \* \* felony, and the party offending shall,  
160 upon each conviction, be fined in any sum not exceeding \* \* \* One  
161 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), or imprisoned not  
162 exceeding \* \* \* ten (10) years, or both, in the discretion of the  
163 court, and shall be liable to forfeiture, to the State of  
164 Mississippi or to the county in which a violation is committed, of  
165 the assets, rights, and privileges used in connection with  
166 violations of the provisions of this section. \* \* \*

167 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the  
168 contrary, it shall not be unlawful to operate any equipment or



device described in subsection (1) of this section or any gaming, gambling or similar device or devices by whatever name called while:

(a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, and in which the registered voters of the county in which the port is located have not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79;

(b) In a structure located, in whole or in part, on shore in any of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of Mississippi in which the registered voters of the county have voted to allow such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as provided in Section 19-3-79, if:

(i) The structure is owned, leased or controlled by a person possessing a gaming license, as defined in Section 75-76-5, to conduct legal gaming on a cruise vessel under paragraph (a) of this subsection;

(ii) The part of the structure in which licensed gaming activities are conducted is located entirely in an area which is located no more than eight hundred (800) feet from the mean high-water line (as defined in Section 29-15-1) of the waters



194 within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State  
195 of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in  
196 the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St.  
197 Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, or, with regard to  
198 Harrison County only, no farther north than the southern boundary  
199 of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater; and

200 (iii) In the case of a structure that is located  
201 in whole or part on shore, the part of the structure in which  
202 licensed gaming activities are conducted shall lie adjacent to  
203 state waters south of the three (3) most southern counties in the  
204 State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis  
205 Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay. When the site upon which the  
206 structure is located consists of a parcel of real property,  
207 easements and rights-of-way for public streets and highways shall  
208 not be construed to interrupt the contiguous nature of the parcel,  
209 nor shall the footage contained within the easements and  
210 rights-of-way be counted in the calculation of the distances  
211 specified in subparagraph (ii);

212 (c) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever  
213 such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within  
214 any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the  
215 registered voters of the county in which the port is located have  
216 not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels  
217 as provided in Section 19-3-79; or





(d) That is legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, it shall not be unlawful (a) to own, possess, repair or control any gambling device, machine or equipment in a licensed gaming establishment or on the business premises appurtenant to any such licensed gaming establishment during any period of time in which such licensed gaming establishment is being constructed, repaired, maintained or operated in this state; (b) to install any gambling device, machine or equipment in any licensed gaming establishment; (c) to possess or control any gambling device, machine or equipment during the process of procuring or transporting such device, machine or equipment for installation on any such licensed gaming establishment; or (d) to store in a warehouse or other storage facility any gambling device, machine, equipment, or part thereof, regardless of whether the county or municipality in which the warehouse or storage facility is located has approved gaming aboard cruise vessels or vessels, provided that such device, machine or equipment is operated only in a county or municipality that has approved gaming aboard cruise vessels or vessels. Any gambling device, machine or equipment that is owned, possessed, controlled, installed, procured, repaired, transported or stored in accordance with this subsection shall not be subject to confiscation, seizure or destruction, and any person, firm, partnership or corporation which owns,



possesses, controls, installs, procures, repairs, transports or stores any gambling device, machine or equipment in accordance with this subsection shall not be subject to any prosecution or penalty under this section. Any person constructing or repairing such cruise vessels or vessels within a municipality shall comply with all municipal ordinances protecting the general health or safety of the residents of the municipality.

(6) An action to prosecute a violation of this section may, in the discretion of the Attorney General or prosecuting attorney, be tried in the county in which the crime occurred or in Hinds County. The Mississippi Gaming Commission may enter into contingency fee agreements for assets forfeited in connection with the prosecution of violations of this section, pursuant to Section 7-5-8.

**SECTION 3.** Section 97-33-8, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-33-8. (1) The provisions of this section are intended to clarify that the operation of "internet sweepstakes cafes" \* \* \* and "online sweepstakes casinos" are illegal gambling \* \* \* activities under state law.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to possess, own, control, display, operate or have a financial interest in an electronic video monitor or platform that:

(a) Is offered or made available to a person to play or participate in a simulated gambling program in return for direct



or indirect consideration, including consideration associated with a product, service or activity other than the simulated gambling program; and

(b) The person who plays or participates in the simulated gambling program may become eligible to win, redeem or otherwise obtain a cash or cash-equivalent prize, whether or not the eligibility for or value of the prize is determined by or has any relationship to the outcome or play of the program.

(3) As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed in this subsection, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(a) "Simulated gambling program" means any method intended to be used by a person playing, participating or interacting with an electronic video monitor or online or mobile platform that is offered by another person or entity; that directly or indirectly implements the predetermination of a cash or cash-equivalent prize, or otherwise connects the player with the cash or cash-equivalent prize; and that is not legal under the Mississippi Gaming Control Act.

(b) "Consideration associated with a product, service or activity other than the simulated gambling program" means money or other value collected for a product, service or activity that is offered in any direct or indirect relationship to playing or participating in the simulated gambling program. The term



includes, but is not limited to, consideration paid for internet access or computer time, or a sweepstakes entry.

(c) "Electronic video monitor" means any unit, mechanism, computer or other terminal, or device that is capable of displaying moving or still images.

(4) Any person or entity violating the provisions of this section by promoting or operating an internet sweepstakes cafe or casino, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a \* \* \* felony and fined in a sum not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), or imprisoned not exceeding a term of ten (10) years, or both. The assets, rights and privileges used in connection with violations of the provisions of this section shall be liable to forfeiture, to the State of Mississippi or to the county in which a violation is committed.

(5) The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

(a) Any lawful activity that is conducted for the primary purpose of entertaining children under the age of eighteen (18) years, during which money is paid for a token or chip that is used to play an electronic or other game, with the winner of the game earning tickets that can be exchanged for prizes;

(b) Any lawful marketing promotion, contest, prize or sweepstakes that is designed to attract consumer attention to a specific product or service unrelated to digital tokens, coins or currency associated with a sweepstakes game and which is offered



for sale by the manufacturer, distributor, vendor or retailer of the product or service; or

(c) Any promotional activity as defined in Section 75-76-5 that is conducted by a gaming licensee.

**SECTION 4.** Sections 4 through 8 of this act shall be known as the "Mississippi Mobile Sports Wagering Act" and the sections shall be codified in Sections 97-33-401, et seq. of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

**SECTION 5.** The following terms shall have the meanings ascribed herein:

(a) "Commission" means the Mississippi Gaming Commission created in Section 75-76-7, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(b) "Executive director" means the Executive Director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission.

(c) "Gaming" means to deal, operate, carry on, maintain, or expose for play any game as defined in Section 75-76-5 (k), Mississippi Code of 1972, including any game approved by the commission.

(d) "Gaming license" means any license issued by the commission pursuant to the Mississippi Gaming Control Act which authorizes the person named therein to engage in gaming.

(e) "Gross revenue" means that term as defined in Section 75-76-5 (p), Mississippi Code of 1972.



(f) "Interactive gaming" means wagering on any interactive game.

(g) "Interactive game" means computerized or virtual versions of any game as defined in Section 75-76-5 (k), Mississippi Code of 1972, or any other game of chance or digital simulation thereof, including, but not limited to, casino themed slot machines or gaming devices, table games or other such games as approved by the commission for play in a licensed establishment.

(h) "Internet" means that term as defined in Section 230 of Title II of the Communications Act of 1934, Chapter 652, 110 Stat. 137, 47 USCS 230.

(i) "Licensed establishment" means any premises for which the commission has issued a gaming license pursuant to the provisions of the Mississippi Gaming Control Act.

(j) "Manufacturer's," or "distributor's" license means a license issued pursuant to Section 75-76-79, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(k) "Online race book" means a race book operation in which wagers are made over the Internet, including on websites and mobile or interactive devices, and accepted by a platform on behalf of the holder of a gaming license.

(l) "Online sports pool" means a sports wagering operation in which wagers on collegiate or professional



sporting events or athletic events are made over the Internet, including on websites and mobile or interactive devices, and accepted by a platform on behalf of the holder of a gaming license.

(m) "Platform" means a person or entity that operates an online sports pool or online race book on behalf of the holder of a gaming license. Each licensed establishment may enter into contracts with no more than two (2) platforms to operate an online sports pool and/or online race book on behalf of the holder of the gaming license.

(n) "Race book" means the business of accepting wagers upon the outcome of any event held at a track which uses the pari-mutuel system of wagering.

(o) "Sports pool" means the business of accepting wagers on collegiate or professional sporting events or athletic events, by any system of wagering other than the system known as the "pari-mutuel system of wagering." The term includes, but is not limited to, single-game bets, teaser bets, parlays, over-under, moneyline, pools, exchange wagering, in-game wagering, in-play bets, proposition bets, and straight bets. The term does not include fantasy contests as defined in Section 97-33-303.

**SECTION 6.** (1) Online sports pools and online race books are legal in the State of Mississippi; provided,



390 however, that nothing in this act shall authorize any other  
391 form of interactive gaming in the State of Mississippi.

392 (2) A platform that operates an online sports pool or  
393 online race book on behalf of the holder of a gaming license  
394 in this state must apply for and obtain a manufacturer's and  
395 distributor's license from the commission.

396 (3) The commission shall, from time to time, adopt,  
397 amend or repeal such regulations, consistent with the  
398 policy, objects and purposes of this chapter, as it may deem  
399 necessary or desirable in the public interest in carrying  
400 out the policy and provisions of this chapter, including but  
401 not limited to such matters as identification and age  
402 verification of players, establishing wagering accounts,  
403 geolocation of players, compulsive and problem gambling  
404 verifications and protections, types of wagers eligible to  
405 be offered, and reporting to the commission of any abnormal  
406 betting activity or patterns that may indicate a concern  
407 about the integrity of a sporting event or athletic event or  
408 any other conduct with the potential to corrupt the betting  
409 outcome of a sporting event or athletic event for financial  
410 gain, such as match fixing or suspicious or illegal wagering  
411 activities.

412 **SECTION 7.** (1) A platform may accept on behalf of the  
413 holder of a gaming license in this state wagers placed over  
414 the Internet, including on websites and mobile or





415 interactive devices, only from players located in  
416 Mississippi, subject to the rules and regulations of the  
417 commission.

418 (2) A person under the age of twenty-one (21) years  
419 shall not play, be allowed to play, place wagers, or collect  
420 winnings, whether personally or through an agent, from any  
421 gaming or wagers authorized under this chapter.

422 (3) A dispute over winnings with respect to an online  
423 race book or online sports pool shall be resolved under the  
424 procedures set forth in Sections 75-76-157 through 75-76-173  
425 Mississippi Code of 1972.

426 **SECTION 8.** Gross revenue from a platform operating an  
427 online race book or an online sports pool on behalf of the  
428 holder of a gaming license shall be subject to the license  
429 fees and credits under Section 75-76-177, 75-76-179,  
430 75-76-181 and 75-76-185 Mississippi Code of 1972.

431 **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
432 and after July 1, 2025.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 97-33-1 AND 97-33-7, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE ANY ONLINE, INTERACTIVE, OR COMPUTERIZED  
3 VERSION OF GAMES WITHIN THE PROHIBITION ON BETTING GAMING OR  
4 WAGERING AND ANY ONLINE INTERACTIVE OR COMPUTERIZED VERSION OF ANY  
5 GAME AS DEFINED IN SECTION 75-76-5(K) SHALL BE A GAMING DEVICE; TO  
6 INCREASE THE CRIMINAL PENALTY; TO PROVIDE THAT AN ACTION TO  
7 PROSECUTE A VIOLATION MAY, IN THE DISCRETION OF THE ATTORNEY  
8 GENERAL OR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, BE TRIED IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH



9 THE VIOLATION OCCURRED OR IN HINDS COUNTY; TO INCREASE THE  
10 CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION; TO AUTHORIZE  
11 THE FORFEITURE OF THE ASSETS, RIGHTS, AND PRIVILEGES USED IN  
12 CONNECTION WITH VIOLATIONS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THESE SECTIONS; TO  
13 AUTHORIZE THE GAMING COMMISSION TO ENTER INTO CONTINGENCY FEE  
14 AGREEMENTS FOR ASSETS FORFEITED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROSECUTION  
15 OF VIOLATIONS OF THIS SECTION; TO AMEND SECTION 97-33-8,  
16 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE INTERNET SWEEPSTAKES CASINOS  
17 WITHIN THE PROHIBITIONS OF THIS SECTION; TO INCREASE THE CRIMINAL  
18 VIOLATION FROM A MISDEMEANOR TO A FELONY; TO AUTHORIZE THE  
19 FORFEITURE OF THE ASSETS, RIGHTS, AND PRIVILEGES USED IN  
20 CONNECTION WITH VIOLATIONS OF THIS SECTION; TO CREATE THE  
21 MISSISSIPPI MOBILE SPORTS WAGERING ACT; TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS  
22 FOR THE ACT; TO LEGALIZE ONLINE SPORTS POOLS AND ONLINE RACE  
23 BOOKS; TO CLARIFY THAT THIS ACT DOES NOT AUTHORIZE INTERACTIVE  
24 GAMING IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO REQUIRE ANY AUTHORIZED  
25 ONLINE PLATFORM THAT OPERATES AN ONLINE SPORTS POOL OR  
26 ONLINE RACE BOOK ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER OF A GAMING LICENSE  
27 IN THIS STATE TO APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN A MANUFACTURER'S AND  
28 DISTRIBUTOR'S LICENSE FROM THE COMMISSION; TO AUTHORIZE THE  
29 GAMING COMMISSION TO ADOPT, AMEND OR REPEAL REGULATIONS  
30 CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACT, INCLUDING  
31 IDENTIFICATION AND AGE VERIFICATION OF PLAYERS; AND FOR  
32 RELATED PURPOSES.

