

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
300 S.W. TENTH AVENUE
TOPEKA, KS 66612
(785) 296-7436
jan.kessinger@house.ks.gov



DISTRICT OFFICE
12605 WALMER STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66209
(913) 275-4790
jan@jankessinger.com

JAN H. KESSINGER
20TH DISTRICT

20180428 testimony to Fed & State on sports betting

HB 2792 Sports Betting

During the informational hearing on legislation to allow sports betting in Kansas, I submitted testimony that the bill I had introduced needed work. This bill today is a good bill that positions the Kansas Lottery, casinos and the state overall for revenue growth in the coming years, not only via sports betting, but by opening up new methods of playing games of chance. It is not an expansion of gaming, rather the embracing and regulation of gaming methods currently being done either illegally or via other states.

This bill lowers the integrity fee granted to professional sports organizations from the initial one percent to .25 percent. This is in line with the legislation pending in most other states who are positioning themselves for an open door to sports betting.

The United States Supreme Court is weighing a case that could open the door for sports betting to be allowed in states other than Nevada. This is a huge opportunity for Kansas to generate revenue that is currently going to Nevada or to illegal gambling. It is expected that a Supreme Court decision will come down in June. If the decision favors the states, HB 2792 allows Kansas to get into the sports betting revenue stream right away.

On the initial bill introduction, the Lottery was neutral, but I have been told via the Governor's office the Lottery is now in support of the bill as proposed. It is especially critical that Kansas have legislation that is compatible with neighboring states so as not to encourage border-hopping to play. This bill assures that.

While there is much to consider, the benefits to Kansas are great with passage of HB 2792. We are not alone in this effort to capture the sports betting dollar that is going to Nevada.