

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Sonja Caldwell 271-2117

HB 591-FN, expanding hours for keno gaming on weekends.

Hearing Date: March 19, 2025

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Lang, Murphy, Sullivan, Rosenwald and Fenton

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill expands permitted keno hours of operations on weekends.

Sponsors:

Rep. Cole
Rep. Ammon

Rep. Ouellet
Rep. Ball

Rep. Alexander Jr.

Who supports the bill: Rep. Brian Cole, Curtis Howland

Who opposes the bill: Sarahlynn Williams

Who is neutral on the bill:

Summary of testimony presented:

Rep. Brian Cole said that this bill would be a win for the state as it would increase revenue. The revenue is estimated to be between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

Sen. Lang called up Lottery Commission Director Charlie McIntyre and asked why the language in the bill is so prescriptive with different hours on weekdays versus weekends. He asked if there was any reason not to allow Keno to be played whenever the licensee is open.

Director McIntyre said there is no reason. He added that in his experience in Massachusetts, when the hours were expanded, there was an immediate lift. There are folks who work night shifts and play at 3:00 a.m. because that is when they get off work. He said there would be increased revenue.

Sen. Murphy asked if as we have expanded into other types of gaming if they have seen any decrease in Keno sales or revenue.

Director McIntyre said they have not seen a decrease in Keno sales; it is still trending. He said their original estimates for Keno revenue were \$48 million and last

year's keno revenue was \$56 million in gross revenue. It is \$13-14 million in profitability. He also noted that we haven't expanded to new communities in a while.

Date Hearing Report completed: March 20, 2025