

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Policy Position
Electronic Gaming Act of 2012
H-3076.1

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supports H-3076.1, an act relating to the authorization and regulation of electronic scratch ticket machines for non-tribal, house-banked card room establishments and utilizing the taxes generated for education, health and human services, as well as public safety; amending RCW 67.70.040, 67.70.330, and 9.46.291; creating a new section; adding a new chapter to Title 67 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

The legislature has declared that electronic scratch tickets are a legal form of gambling in the state of Washington. This position is intended to grant specific authority to the Washington state lottery commission to regulate electronic scratch ticket gambling by non-tribal house-banked card rooms that are currently allowed in state tribal gaming venues.

The Chamber Board finds this chapter will assist in job creation and retention. The Chamber Board further finds that this chapter is necessary for the immediate preservation of public health and safety and the support of state government and its existing public institutions as it is intended to generate tax revenue appropriated in the 2011-2013 biennium. Programs dependent upon the additional revenue forecasted under this chapter provide for the health, education, and welfare of the citizens of the state of Washington.

The legislature faces a looming \$1.4 billion deficit in this biennium. Citizens are rightly resistant to further taxes and fees imposed on their existing limited budgets. A fee imposed on recreational gaming would be self-imposed to only those who choose this form of entertainment.