Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas Constitution.

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021 HJR 1011

By: Representative Cloud

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR A LOCAL OPTION ELECTION CONCERNING CASINO GAMING IN POPE COUNTY.

Subtitle

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR A LOCAL OPTION ELECTION CONCERNING CASINO GAMING IN POPE COUNTY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 100, § 4(n)-(r) are amended to read as follows:

(n)<u>(1)</u> The Arkansas Racing Commission shall require all casino applicants for a casino license in ~~Pope County and~~ Jefferson County to submit either a letter of support from the county judge or a resolution from the quorum court in ~~the county where the proposed casino is to be located~~ <u>Jefferson County</u> and, if the proposed casino is to be located within a city

or town, shall also require all casino applicants to include a letter of support from the mayor in the city or town where the applicant is proposing the casino to be located.

(2) Letters of support under subdivision (n)(1) of this section shall be from the county judge or quorum court and, if appropriate, the mayor, who are in office at the time of the submission of the application.

(o)(1) The Arkansas Racing Commission shall not issue a casino license in Pope County unless the voters of the county approve conducting casino gaming in Pope County.

(2)(A) An election shall be called on the issue of conducting casino gaming in Pope County upon the submission to the county clerk of signatures totaling at least ten percent (10%) of the qualified electors who cast a vote in the county for the office of Governor in the last general election in which the office appeared on the ballot.

(B) A petition under this subdivision (o)(2) shall be submitted to the county clerk at least four (4) months prior to a general election.

(C) If a petition is found by the county clerk to be insufficient, the sponsor of the petition shall be permitted at least thirty (30) days from the date of notification to make a correction or amendment to the petition.

(3)(A) If a petition is found to be sufficient, the issue of conducting casino gaming in Pope County shall be considered by the qualified electors of the county at the next following general election.

(B) If the legal voters approve conducting casino gaming in Pope County, the Arkansas Racing Commission shall accept applications for a casino license in Pope County.

(C) If the legal voters reject conducting casino gaming in Pope County, the Arkansas Racing Commission shall not accept applications for a casino license in Pope County.

(4)(A) If conducting casino gaming is approved in Pope County, the Arkansas Racing Commission shall require all casino applicants for a casino license in Pope County to submit either a letter of support from the county judge or a resolution from the quorum court in Pope County and, if the proposed casino is to be located within a city or town, shall also require all casino applicants to include a letter of support from the mayor in the

city or town where the applicant is proposing the casino to be located.

(B) Letters of support under subdivision (o)(4)(A) of this section shall be from the county judge or quorum court and, if appropriate, the mayor, who are in office at the time of the submission of the application.

(5) If an election is held under this subsection, a subsequent election to consider the issue of conducting casino gaming in Pope County shall not be held within ten (10) years of the date of the general election at which the issue was considered.

(6) The General Assembly may enact laws necessary to implement this subsection, including without limitations laws concerning the requirements and procedures for an election on the issue of conducting casino gaming in Pope County under this subsection.

~~(o)~~(p) Franchise holders are not applicants and are not required to submit applications for casino licenses in order to be issued a casino license.

~~(p)~~(q) No individual, corporation, partnership, association, trust, or other entity may hold more than one (1) casino license in Arkansas.

~~(q)~~(r) The Arkansas Racing Commission shall issue a renewal casino license within ten (10) days to any licensed casino that complies with the requirements contained in this Amendment, including without limitation the payment of the casino license renewal fee, which shall not exceed ten thousand dollars ($10,000). Casino licenses shall be renewed every ten (10) years.

~~(r)(1)~~(s)(1) The Arkansas Racing Commission shall provide an annual amount of at least two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) for compulsive gambling disorder treatment and compulsive gambling disorder educational programs.

(2) The Arkansas Racing Commission shall work together with the Department of Human Services to implement the compulsive gambling disorder treatment programs and the compulsive gambling disorder educational programs under this section.

(3) The Arkansas Racing Commission may contract with the Department of Human Services for providing all services related to and administration of the compulsive gambling disorder treatment programs and the compulsive gambling disorder educational programs.

(4) The Department of Human Services may promulgate rules to administer the compulsive gambling disorder treatment programs and the compulsive gambling disorder educational programs.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and after November 9, 2022.

SECTION 3. RETROACTIVITY. This amendment is retroactive to November 14, 2018.

SECTION 4. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election ballot:

(1) The title of this Joint Resolution shall be the ballot title; and

(2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to Provide for a Local Option Election Concerning Casino Gaming in Pope County".