

HCS HB 1941-- FANTASY SPORTS EXEMPTION

SPONSOR: Fitzpatrick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill exempts certain fantasy sports contests, which may have entry fees and prizes, from gaming laws if they are based on statistical aggregates of player performance across different games and not upon individual game scores or individual player performance. The bill requires operators offering fantasy contests with an entry fee to register with the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Profession Registration and pay a registration fee. It also requires safeguards to prevent individuals who would have an unfair advantage from participating in fantasy contests, such as employees or individuals who participate in or officiate the sporting event.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that fantasy sports contests are games of skill and not gambling.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fitzpatrick; Christopher Grimm, Draft Kings; Derick Hein, Draft Kings; Charles Wiegert, Fantasy Sports Trade Association; and Mark Hanna and Tim Jensen, Realtime Fantasy Sports.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.