

LEGALIZING SPORTS BETTING: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT B

ISSUE: Constitutional Amendment B would legalize sports betting in Deadwood.

OVERVIEW: The 2020 legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 501, submitting to the people of South Dakota a proposed amendment to the Constitution which would legalize sports betting, an increasingly popular form of gambling, in Deadwood. While not mentioned in SJR 501, legalization of sports betting in Deadwood would also open up sports betting at on-reservation tribal casinos.

The South Dakota Constitution currently allows several gambling games in Deadwood. This amendment would allow sports betting to the list of allowable games. The revenue collected via gambling in Deadwood is used for the historic restoration and preservation of Deadwood.

SDFB POLICY: SDFB policy supports a “moratorium on any increase in new games and number of machines in casino gaming pending a study of the social impact it has on the state, i.e., law enforcement, rehabilitation, etc.”

RECOMMENDATION: SDFB recommends a ‘NO’ vote on Constitutional Amendment B.