

**House Study Bill 50 - Introduced**

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY BILL)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act concerning gambling game prohibited activities and
- 2 making penalties applicable.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 99F.15, subsection 4, paragraph d, Code  
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 *d.* Cheats at a gambling game, including but not limited to  
4 committing any act which alters the outcome of the game.

5 Sec. 2. Section 99F.15, subsection 4, paragraph h, Code  
6 2015, is amended by striking the paragraph.

7 Sec. 3. Section 99F.15, Code 2015, is amended by adding the  
8 following new subsection:

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 5A. *a.* A person who places, removes,  
10 increases, or decreases a bet after acquiring knowledge of the  
11 outcome of the gambling game which is the subject of the bet or  
12 to aid a person in acquiring the knowledge for the purpose of  
13 placing, removing, increasing, or decreasing a bet contingent  
14 on that outcome commits the offense of unlawful betting.

15 *b.* (1) A person is guilty of a class "D" felony if the  
16 person commits the offense of unlawful betting where the  
17 potential winnings from the bet exceed one thousand dollars in  
18 value.

19 (2) A person is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor if  
20 the person commits the offense of unlawful betting where the  
21 potential winnings from the bet exceed five hundred dollars in  
22 value but do not exceed one thousand dollars in value.

23 (3) A person is guilty of a serious misdemeanor if the  
24 person commits the offense of unlawful betting where the  
25 potential winnings from the bet exceed two hundred dollars in  
26 value but do not exceed five hundred dollars in value.

27 (4) A person is guilty of a simple misdemeanor if the person  
28 commits the offense of unlawful betting where the potential  
29 winnings from the bet do not exceed two hundred dollars in  
30 value.

31 *c.* Two convictions of the offense of unlawful betting as  
32 provided in this subsection shall result in the person being  
33 barred for life from excursion gambling boats and gambling  
34 structures under the jurisdiction of the commission.

35

EXPLANATION

1           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
2           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3       This bill concerns prohibited activities and penalties  
4 relative to gambling games on excursion gambling boats and  
5 gambling structures.

6       Code section 99F.15(4)(d) is amended to provide that  
7 cheating at a gambling game includes committing any act which  
8 alters the outcome of the game. A violation of cheating at a  
9 gambling game is a class "D" felony.

10      Code section 99F.15(4)(h) currently provides that a person  
11 who places a bet after acquiring knowledge, not available to  
12 all players, of the outcome of the gambling game which is the  
13 subject of the bet commits a class "D" felony regardless of  
14 the amount of the bet and is barred for life from excursion  
15 gambling boats and gambling structures after a single offense.  
16 The bill strikes this provision and creates new subsection 5A  
17 concerning the offense of unlawful betting. The bill provides  
18 that a person who places, removes, increases, or decreases a  
19 bet after acquiring knowledge of the outcome of the gambling  
20 game which is the subject of the bet commits the offense of  
21 unlawful betting. The bill then provides that a person is  
22 guilty of a class "D" felony if the potential winnings from the  
23 unlawful bet exceed \$1,000 in value, an aggravated misdemeanor  
24 if the potential winnings from the unlawful bet exceed \$500 in  
25 value but do not exceed \$1,000 in value, a serious misdemeanor  
26 if the potential winnings from the unlawful bet exceed \$200 in  
27 value but do not exceed \$500 in value, or a simple misdemeanor  
28 if the potential winnings from the unlawful bet do not exceed  
29 \$200 in value. The bill further provides that two convictions  
30 of the offense of unlawful betting shall result in the person  
31 being barred for life from excursion gambling boats and  
32 gambling structures.