

Commission Position Statement
House Bill 1016
January 2017

At the Washington State Gambling Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on January 12, 2017, the Commissioners voted to oppose House Bill 1016, which imposes an unprecedented standard in the state for the forfeiture of unlawful gambling equipment, property and/or proceeds seized under RCW 9.46.231.

This bill requires the Gambling Commission to obtain a felony conviction against each person it seizes illegal gambling equipment, property, and proceeds from before it can forfeit the property. One of the methods the Gambling Commission has used as a deterrent for criminal and illegal activity in the gambling sector is seizure and forfeiture. In many cases of criminal or illegal activity however, the perpetrator disappears or does not claim the property to avoid criminal prosecution. Therefore, this bill would restrain the Gambling Commission from deterring or preventing criminal or illegal gambling activity.