

Senate Committee on Governmental Organization
Examining the Public Policy and Fiscal Implications Related to the
Authorization of Intrastate Internet Poker in California
February 9, 2010

Office of Problem Gambling - Talking Points

- OPG mission is to provide quality, research-driven leadership in prevention, intervention, and treatment for problem and pathological gamblers, their families and communities.
- OPG does not take a stance “for or against” gambling.
- OPG conducted the largest prevalence study in the US regarding gambling behaviors and problem gambling in 2006. There were 7,121 respondents and 101% gambled on the Internet within the past year. Census information indicates 26.3 million CA citizens over 18 years.
- Between 1999 and 2006 past year participation in Internet gambling increased.
- 2006 CA Prevalence Study showed internet gamblers to be significantly younger than the general population; almost 6 of 10 were under 40 years. The majority of internet gamblers, 65%, when asked what game they last played answered poker.
- 2006 Prevalence Study indicated 3.7% (over a million) of CA adults suffer from problem and pathological gambling; and another 2.2% – 2.7% are “at risk” of becoming problem gamblers.
- 1.8% of callers to the help-line in 2009 primarily gambled on the internet (90 of 5009); 3.3% indicated internet as their secondary gambling preference.
- 2006 AG’s Gambling in the Golden State Report states that problem and pathological gamblers present a social cost of nearly one billion dollars annually.
- New legislation in the gambling industry should include language similar to cardroom regulations and new and amended tribal-state compacts related to Responsible Gambling Programs.
(CCR Title 4, Sections 12461, 12464; Compact Section 8.5)
- Posting requirements: signs and symptoms of problem gambling; and the toll-free help number 1-800-GAMBLER.

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- Self-exclusion Program: opportunity for problem and pathological gamblers to voluntarily restrict access to the gambling site.
- Underage gambling: securities to eliminate access to site for underage individuals.
- In addition, funding to OPG is necessary to mitigate the affects from problem and pathological gambling.