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**BUREAU OF  
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT FROM  
FEBRUARY 21, 2019 ARKANSAS RACING COMMISSION MEETING**

This is a public comment report on the proposed casino gaming rules, which have been proposed for consideration and adoption by the Arkansas Racing Commission (hereinafter, "ARC"). The rules were properly advertised as required by the Administrative Procedures Act, and a public hearing was held in the ARC offices on February 21, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. A summary report of the written public comments was submitted to the BLR on February 19, 2019.

The following persons made verbal comments at the February 21, 2019, meeting regarding the proposed casino gaming rules:

1. Ben Cross, Pope County Judge, stated that Pope County voters spoke in the election when they voted down Amendment 100 and voted for a local ordinance calling for an election prior to Pope County officials issuing any letter of support. Judge Cross also submitted a written comment.

2. Richard Harris, Mayor of Russellville, stated that the process leading up to the former County Judge and Mayor issuing letters of support was not open and forthright.

3. Dr. Joe Cloud, State Representative, Pope County, requested that the ARC consider written comments and responses from Pope County residents that overwhelmingly favored proposed Rule 2.

4. Skip Ebel, attorney for Oaklawn, stated that Rule 19 on Disseminators was outdated and no longer relevant to the operation of a casino; he pointed out that Rule 19 contained mandatory fees that were higher than commonly used in the industry.

5. James Harvard urged the ARC to restrict casino sales of alcohol and to listen to local authorities on alcohol sales at casinos; he is concerned about alcohol sales to Arkansas Tech University students.

6. Scott Trotter submitted a written report from Professor Keith Miller from Drake University Law School regarding issues with sports wagering and issuing credit to customers; Mr. Trotter urged adoption of rules to protect patrons and consideration of self-exclusion rules for patrons.

7. Brian Eisele, Clarksville Development Corporation, stated that a casino is an economic development opportunity for Johnson County, which wants a casino to open in Johnson County.

8. Herman Houston, Johnson County Judge, stated that Johnson County wants a casino and that it is needed to help the economy, which had recently lost jobs. Judge Houston will work to change Amendment 100 to allow a casino in Johnson County.

9. Joseph Pearson, Justice of the Peace in Pope County, supports proposed Rule 2.

10. Aaron Pilkington, State Representative whose district covers both Pope and Johnson counties, stated that he would introduce legislation to amend Amendment 100 to authorize a casino in Johnson County.

11. Casey Castleberry, attorney for Gulfside Casino, made an argument that the proposed Rule 2 was unconstitutional; Mr. Castleberry had previously submitted a legal brief on this issue that was received as a public comment.

The proposed casino gaming rules were approved by the ARC and will become effective on March 14, 2019, if they are approved by the Bureau of Legislative Research.