FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 151

Committee: Economic Development and Tourism

Sponsor: Representative Chris Blackshear

Analyst: Tiffany Weaver

Date: 02/14/2024

House Bill 151 as reported by the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism proposes a constitutional amendment, which if ratified, would prohibit all forms of gaming in the state, with the exception of certain games authorized by the Legislature, by general law, including: (1) a state lottery administered by a public corporation as an instrumentality of the state; (2) casino-style games at no more than seven licensed gaming establishments; (3) sports wagering; (4) traditional raffles; and (5) traditional bingo. This bill establishes a gaming commission within the executive branch with a law enforcement division to police and conduct all gaming activity in the state and eradicate unlawful gaming activity.

This amendment also requires the Governor to negotiate and execute a compact for Class III games and sports wagering with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. In return for negotiating a compact, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians would be granted one of the seven licenses to conduct and operate casino-style games outside of lands held in trust.

If ratified, this amendment could result in compact, gaming, license fee, and lottery revenues to the state depending on the enabling provisions of this amendment as outlined in House Bill 152 of the 2024 Regular Session.

In addition, this bill will increase the proclamation expenses of the Governor, paid from the State General Fund, by an estimated $100,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025.