

1 **COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS AND REVENUE**
2 **COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCIAL SERVICES**
3 **AND INTERSTATE COMMERCE**
4

5 **TITLE: STATE SOVEREIGNTY IN ONLINE GAMING**
6

7 **TYPE: RESOLUTION - DRAFT**
8

9 The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) believes the federal government
10 must respect the sovereignty of states to allow or to prohibit Internet gambling by their
11 residents.
12

13 The recent ruling by the United States Justice Department on the Federal Wire Act of
14 1961, 18 U.S.C. §1084, clarifies that intra-state online gambling is lawful. Any effort by
15 Congress or the administration to reverse this ruling is preemptive and diminishes the
16 flexibility of state legislatures to be innovative and responsive to the unique needs of the
17 residents of each state.
18

19 NCSL requests Congress consider the perspective of the states as it examines this
20 issue and asks that it involve state legislators in any federal efforts that seek to reform
21 the regulation of online gaming. NCSL strongly opposes any effort by the federal
22 government to overturn the Justice Department's ruling or consideration of legislation
23 overruling state authority by legalizing or regulating gambling at the federal level. NCSL
24 also requests that federal lawmakers be respectful of state legislatures that prohibit
25 online gaming or other forms of gaming within their state.