

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

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6 **RESOLUTION: STATE SOVEREIGNTY IN ONLINE GAMING**

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8 **TYPE: RESOLUTION**

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10 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) believes the federal  
11 government must respect the sovereignty of states to allow or to prohibit Internet  
12 gambling by its residents; and

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14 WHEREAS, the 2011 ruling by the United States Justice Department on the Federal  
15 Wire Act of 1961, 18 U.S.C. §1084, clarifies that intra-state online gambling is lawful.  
16 Any effort by Congress or the administration to reverse this ruling is preemptive and  
17 diminishes the flexibility of state legislatures to be innovative and responsive to the  
18 unique needs of the residents of each state; and

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