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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 518

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

Designating March, in 2023 and in each succeeding year, as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in Virginia.

Patrons—Krizek, Adams, D.M., Clark, Guzman, Hope, Kory, Mullin, Price, Rasoul, Shin, Sickles, Simonds, Subramanyam and Ware; Senators: Reeves, Boysko and Favola

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a public health issue that impacts Americans of all ages, ethnicities, races, and genders; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling has significant societal and economic costs to individuals, families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is treatable, and treatment is effective in minimizing the harm to both individuals and society; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Council on Problem Gambling, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Virginia Lottery are working to raise awareness and increase public education about problem gambling, along with the availability and effectiveness of treatment and recovery; and

WHEREAS, Virginians have benefited from support through the Virginia Problem Gambling Helpline (1-888-532-3500) funded by the Virginia Lottery and administered by the Virginia Council on Problem Gambling; and

WHEREAS, the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund was created to provide counseling and other support services for problem gamblers and provides grants to support organizations that offer assistance to problem gamblers; and

WHEREAS, several organizations in the Commonwealth have joined the cause as members of the Virginia Council on Problem Gambling to help mitigate the risk to the estimated two percent of Americans that experience gambling problems; and

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling has designated March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate March, in 2023 and in each succeeding year, as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services, Virginia Lottery, Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs, Virginia Racing Commission, and Virginia Council on Problem Gambling so that members of the organization may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this month on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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