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AB-553 Department of Justice: Bureau of Gambling Control. (2023-2024)

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Assembly Bill No. 553

CHAPTER 533

An act to add Section 15002.6 to the Government Code, relating to the Department of Justice.

[Approved by Governor October 08, 2023. Filed with Secretary of State October 08, 2023.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 553, Ramos. Department of Justice: Bureau of Gambling Control.

Existing law establishes the Bureau of Gambling Control within the Department of Justice. Existing law also establishes the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund for the receipt and deposit of moneys received by the state from Indian tribes pursuant to the terms of tribal-state gaming compacts, to be available for appropriation by the Legislature for, among other things, regulatory costs incurred by the state in connection with the implementation and administration of tribal gaming.

This bill would require the Department of Justice, by no later than June 1, 2025, to develop and implement a formal time tracking policy and procedure for employees assigned to the Bureau of Gambling Control to track those hours and other expenses that can be charged to the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund. The bill would, commencing January 1, 2026, require quarterly audits of timekeeping to ensure that only those hours and expenses directly related to tribal gaming are charged to the fund.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 15002.6 is added to the Government Code, to read:

15002.6. (a) By no later than June 1, 2025, the department shall develop and implement a policy and procedure for employees assigned to the Bureau of Gambling Control to formally track those hours and other expenses that can be charged to the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund.

(b) The policy and procedure described in subdivision (a) shall, without limitation, include all of the following:

- (1) A requirement that all hours and expenses related to tribal gaming regulatory activities be recorded with reasonable detail.
- (2) A requirement that no hours or expenses unrelated to tribal gaming regulatory activity be charged to the fund.
- (3) A requirement that the individual timekeeping records created by each employee be reviewed and approved by a supervisor.

(c) Commencing on January 1, 2026, and quarterly thereafter, the bureau shall conduct an audit of employee timekeeping records to ensure compliance with this section.

