

1-1 By: Middleton S.B. No. 517
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed December 2, 2024; February 3, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
1-4 April 14, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 14, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Hughes	X			
1-10	Paxton	X			
1-11	Bettencourt	X			
1-12	Birdwell	X			
1-13	Hall	X			
1-14	Hinojosa of Nueces	X			
1-15	Middleton	X			
1-16	Parker			X	
1-17	Perry	X			
1-18	Schwertner			X	
1-19	Zaffirini	X			

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 517 By: Middleton

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to gambling criminal offenses and a defense to prosecution
1-24 for a gambling offense; increasing criminal penalties.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Section 47.01, Penal Code, is amended by adding
1-27 Subdivision (2-a) and amending Subdivisions (4) and (9) to read as
1-28 follows:

1-29 (2-a) "Device" includes all or part of an electronic,
1-30 electromechanical, or mechanical contrivance, machine, or
1-31 apparatus.

1-32 (4) "Gambling device" means any device ~~[electronic,~~
1-33 ~~electromechanical, or mechanical contrivance not excluded under~~
1-34 ~~Paragraph (B)]~~ that for [a] consideration affords the player or
1-35 user of the device an opportunity to obtain any thing ~~[anything]~~ of
1-36 value, the award of which is determined solely or partially by
1-37 chance, even though accompanied by some skill, whether or not the
1-38 prize is automatically paid by the contrivance. The term~~+~~

1-39 ~~[(A)]~~ includes a ~~[, but is not limited to,]~~
1-40 gambling device version ~~[versions]~~ of bingo, keno, blackjack,
1-41 lottery, roulette, video poker, or similar electronic,
1-42 electromechanical, or mechanical games, or a facsimile of any of
1-43 those or similar games ~~[facsimiles thereof]~~, that operates solely
1-44 or partially ~~[operate]~~ by chance ~~[or partially so, that as a result~~
1-45 ~~of the play or operation of the game award credits or free games,~~
1-46 ~~and that record the number of free games or credits so awarded and~~
1-47 ~~the cancellation or removal of the free games or credits, and~~

1-48 ~~[(B) does not include any electronic,~~
1-49 ~~electromechanical, or mechanical contrivance designed, made, and~~
1-50 ~~adapted solely for bona fide amusement purposes if the contrivance~~
1-51 ~~rewards the player exclusively with noncash merchandise prizes,~~
1-52 ~~toys, or novelties, or a representation of value redeemable for~~
1-53 ~~those items, that have a wholesale value available from a single~~
1-54 ~~play of the game or device of not more than 10 times the amount~~
1-55 ~~charged to play the game or device once or \$5, whichever is less].~~

1-56 (9) "Thing of value" means any property, money, right,
1-57 privilege, or other benefit, including a gift card or any other
1-58 representation of value redeemable for any property, money, right,
1-59 privilege, or other benefit ~~[but does not include an unrecorded and~~
1-60 ~~immediate right of replay not exchangeable for value].~~

