Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: HB396S1 **Patron:** Krizek
Bill Title: Charitable gaming; Texas Hold'em poker tournaments.

Bill Summary: Defines a poker event as a Texas Hold'em poker game or tournament in which (i) a schedule of fixed and variable fees for entry into the poker event and the number of chips received for such fees is established and posted, (ii) chips with cash value are permitted to be used, (iii) games and tournaments may be run concurrently, (iv) no limit applies to how many poker events occur during the time listed on the permit for such poker event, and (v) a seating fee may be charged at a rate of up to $8 up to once every 30 minutes and allows operator's fees, charges, or assessments to be a percentage up to 50 percent of poker adjusted gross receipts. The bill requires qualified organizations to hire licensed security officers to be present during any events and to use at least 20 percent of poker adjusted gross receipts derived from such events for religious, charitable, community, or educational purposes for which the organization is chartered or organized or for expenses related to acquisition, construction, maintenance, or repair of property involved in the operation of the organization for such purposes and excepts these from the requirement to use predetermined percentages of receipts detailed elsewhere. The bill allows unlimited rebuys during the first two hours of tournament play or until the first break, whichever occurs first, and permits one add-on at the end of the rebuy period before play resumes at the end of the first break. The bill also allows remuneration to be paid to operators and allows dealers and employees of operators to accept tips or gratuities and prohibits qualified organizations from permitting a Texas Hold'em poker game that is not a tournament to be conducted outside of its social quarters or by any person who is not a bona fide member of the organization.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No. **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: This bill involves the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS); however, no budget action is required. See Fiscal Analysis section below.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact this bill may have on VDACS can be absorbed within existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary and will be updated if additional information becomes available. This bill may result in fewer individuals and organizations being eligible to participate in charitable gaming activities. VDACS is unable to determine the number of individuals or organizations that will participate in or conduct tournaments and, as such, cannot determine the potential change in resources required by the agency to permit, audit, and inspect such tournaments. It is anticipated that VDACS can absorb any costs associated with the implementation of this bill.

Other: None.