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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. **653**

02/05/2015 Authored by Franson

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Regulatory Reform

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to gambling; modifying social skill games to include tournaments
1.3 or contests of whist; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 609.761,
1.4 subdivision 3.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 609.761, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 3. **Social skill game.** Sections 609.755 and 609.76 do not prohibit
1.8 tournaments or contests that satisfy all of the following requirements:

1.9 (1) the tournament or contest consists of the card games of chance commonly known
1.10 as cribbage, skat, sheephead, bridge, euchre, pinochle, gin, 500, smear, Texas hold'em,
1.11 or whist;

1.12 (2) the tournament or contest does not provide any direct financial benefit to the
1.13 promoter or organizer;

1.14 (3) the value of all prizes awarded for each tournament or contest does not exceed
1.15 \$200; ~~and~~

1.16 (4) for a tournament or contest involving Texas hold'em:

1.17 (i) no person under 18 years of age may participate;

1.18 (ii) the payment of an entry fee or other consideration for participating is prohibited;

1.19 (iii) the value of all prizes awarded to an individual winner of a tournament or
1.20 contest at a single location may not exceed \$200 each day; and

1.21 (iv) the organizer or promoter must ensure that reasonable accommodations are
1.22 made for players with disabilities. Accommodations to the table and the cards shall
1.23 include the announcement of the cards visible to the entire table and the use of Braille
1.24 cards for players who are blind; and

- 2.1 (5) for a tournament or contest involving whist:
- 2.2 (i) the value of all prizes awarded for each tournament does not exceed \$8,000; and
- 2.3 (ii) the organizer or promoter has not held a whist tournament in the 12 months
- 2.4 immediately preceding this tournament or contest.

- 2.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.