

APR 21 2009

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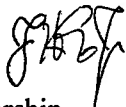
**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**JOHN H. EICHELBERGER, JR.**  
**30TH DISTRICT**

- COMMITTEES**
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT, VICE CHAIR
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- AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
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- JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE PA FAIR CAUCUS
- BIOTECHNOLOGY/LIFE SCIENCES CAUCUS

April 21, 2009

**TO:** All Senators

**FROM:** John H. Eichelberger, Jr. 

**SUBJECT:** Invitation for Co-Sponsorship

On numerous occasions since the passage of the Gaming Act, the media has reported on campaign contributions, made individually and through partnerships, by certain prospective applicants/licenses which have raised legal and ethical controversies. Further, the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* and other papers have also reported the participation of gambling-related interests in a fundraiser to retire the campaign debt of a former legislator who advocated for the law that expanded gaming, and then later himself became a gaming lobbyist. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, campaign contributions of gaming interests have increased 400% at the federal level since 1990 (*not* including state races and donations of "Levin" funds to state and local party committees).

In light of the volume and liquidity of money generated by the gaming industry, which inherently increases the potential for abuse as indicated by the above reports, I plan to introduce legislation to strengthen the restrictions on campaign contributions from persons associated with licensed casino operators.

The first provision of the bill would prohibit contributions to retire the campaign debts of former candidates or office holders. The second provision would extend the ban, from licensed casino operators, to those who have registered with the Gaming Board as "licensed casino representatives," and would make express reference to registered lobbyists. This would prevent casino operators from making contributions indirectly through paid lobbyists or other entities.

The bill will be numbered as Senate Bill 812, and attached is a draft of the proposed language. If you have any questions or wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Lee Derr by phone at 717-787-5490 or by e-mail at [lderr@pasen.gov](mailto:lderr@pasen.gov).

JHE:ld

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, further providing for restrictions on  
3 contributions.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 1513(a) of Title 4 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes, amended November 1, 2006 (P.L.1243,  
8 No.135), is amended to read:

9 § 1513. Political influence.

10 (a) Contribution restriction.--The following persons shall  
11 be prohibited from contributing any money or in-kind  
12 contribution to a candidate for nomination or election to any  
13 public office in this Commonwealth, or to any political party  
14 committee or other political committee in this Commonwealth or  
15 to any group, committee or association organized in support of a  
16 candidate, **former candidate**, political party committee or other  
17 political committee in this Commonwealth:

1 (1) An applicant for a slot machine license,  
2 manufacturer license, supplier license, principal license,  
3 key employee license or horse or harness racing license.

4 (2) A slot machine licensee, licensed manufacturer,  
5 licensed supplier or licensed racing entity.

6 (3) A licensed principal or licensed key employee of a  
7 slot machine licensee, licensed manufacturer, licensed  
8 supplier or licensed racing entity.

9 (4) An affiliate, intermediary, subsidiary or holding  
10 company of a slot machine licensee, licensed manufacturer,  
11 licensed supplier or licensed racing entity.

12 (5) A licensed principal or licensed key employee of an  
13 affiliate, intermediary, subsidiary or holding company of a  
14 slot machine licensee, licensed manufacturer, licensed  
15 supplier or licensed racing entity.

16 (6) A person who holds a similar gaming license in  
17 another jurisdiction and the affiliates, intermediaries,  
18 subsidiaries, holding companies, principals or key  
employees thereof.

19 (7) **A licensed entity representative or a registered**  
**lobbyist for a licensed entity or applicant.**

20 \* \* \*

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.