

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2216 Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY BARBIN, SAINATO, D. COSTA, MASSER, MILLARD AND  
A. HARRIS, JUNE 23, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, JUNE 23, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156),  
2 entitled, as amended, "An act providing for the licensing of  
3 eligible organizations to conduct games of chance, for the  
4 licensing of persons to distribute games of chance, for the  
5 registration of manufacturers of games of chance, and for  
6 suspensions and revocations of licenses and permits;  
7 requiring records; providing for local referendum by  
8 electorate; and prescribing penalties," in preliminary  
9 provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in games  
10 of chance, providing for Texas Hold'em card tournaments.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 103 of the act of December 19, 1988  
14 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as the Local Option Small Games of  
15 Chance Act, is amended by adding a definition to read:

16 Section 103. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall,  
18 except as provided under section 902, have the meanings given to  
19 them in this section unless the context clearly indicates  
20 otherwise:

21 \* \* \*

22 "Texas Hold'em card tournament." A poker variant or

1 community card game where each player may use any combination of  
2 five community cards and the player's own two hole cards to make  
3 a poker hand. In tournament format, a player may bet up to the  
4 amount of chips the player possesses.

5 \* \* \*

6 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:  
7 Section 301.2. Texas Hold'em card tournaments.

8 (a) Conduct.--Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
9 act, Texas Hold'em card tournaments may be conducted by  
10 volunteer fire companies to which a license has been issued  
11 under this section up to four times per calendar year. All Texas  
12 Hold'em card tournaments must be held on volunteer fire company  
13 grounds. Revenue generated from Texas Hold'em card tournaments  
14 shall be used for public interest purposes as permitted under  
15 this chapter.

16 (b) Special license.--A special license shall be required  
17 for volunteer fire companies to conduct up to four Texas Hold'em  
18 card tournaments per calendar year. A license fee of \$1,000  
19 shall be charged to permit volunteer fire companies to conduct  
20 up to four Texas Hold'em card tournaments per calendar year.

21 (c) Entry fee.--A volunteer fire company may charge an entry  
22 fee of no more than \$100 per person.

23 (d) Prizes.--Notwithstanding section 302, volunteer fire  
24 companies shall pay out prizes to no more than the top five  
25 winning persons in a declining manner based on the player's  
26 final placement in the Texas Hold'em card tournament. The prize  
27 pool shall be based on entry fees collected.

28 (e) Costs and profits.--A volunteer fire company may keep up  
29 to 60% of the entry fees collected.

30 (f) Regulations.--The department shall promulgate

1 regulations to impose standards and restrictions for the conduct  
2 of Texas Hold'em card tournaments.

3       Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.