
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1552 Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY PRATT, MILLIRON, MILANOVICH, DiCARLO AND
DOMBROWSKI, JULY 28, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, JULY 28, 1977

AN ACT

1 Providing for the licensing of clubs to conduct certain games of
2 chance; providing for suspensions and revocations of
3 licenses; requiring records, and prescribing penalties.

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

6 Section 1. The following words and phrases when used in this
7 act shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise,
8 the meanings given to them in this section:

9 "Club." A nonprofit corporation, association, society,
10 organization, charitable institution or other nonprofit group of
11 individuals associated together for legitimate purposes of
12 mutual benefits, entertainment, fellowship, pleasure, recreation
13 or lawful convenience having some primary interest to which the
14 use of games of chance shall be secondary and which regularly
15 occupies, as owner or lessee, a clubhouse or quarters for the
16 use of its members and which is licensed as a "club" under the
17 act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the "Liquor
18 Code."

1 "Games of chance." Any game or device at which money or
2 other valuable thing may or shall be played for or staked or bet
3 upon, but shall not include those machines commonly known as
4 "slot machines" or those games of chance commonly known as
5 "bingo."

6 Section 2. Every club to which a license has been issued
7 under the provisions of this act may conduct games of chance for
8 the purpose of raising funds for the legitimate purposes and
9 activities of the club.

10 Section 3. There shall be a maximum limit on any individual
11 prize or winning offered or provided by a club under this act of
12 \$50.

13 Section 4. The Department of Revenue shall have the duty to:

14 (1) Provide for the licensing of clubs to hold, operate
15 and conduct games of chance.

16 (2) Prescribe the form of applications for licenses and
17 for the licenses.

18 (3) Issue licenses permitting the holding of games of
19 chance.

20 (4) Prescribe rules and regulations for the supervision,
21 conduct and type of games of chance.

22 (5) Suspend and revoke licenses for violations of this
23 act or the rules and regulations thereunder.

24 (6) Hold hearings on request in cases of refusal of a
25 license.

26 (7) Prescribe such other rules and regulations as may be
27 necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

28 Section 5. (a) Licenses to conduct games of chance shall be
29 issued to clubs in any calendar year and the fee therefor shall
30 be \$100.

(b) Licenses shall be renewable each calendar year unless
revoked under the provisions of this act.

Section 6. The Department of Revenue shall not issue a
license to and shall revoke the license of any club whenever it
finds that:

(1) compensation, salary or fees are paid to anyone for
setting up or conducting the games of chance;

(2) any of the funds derived from the operation of games
of chance are used for any purpose other than for the
legitimate purposes and activities of the club; or

(3) any provision of this act has been violated.

Section 7. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law
of the Commonwealth or ordinance or resolution of any political
subdivision thereof, such gaming shall not constitute any crime
or public nuisance.

Section 8. (a) The licensee shall keep such records and
books as the Department of Revenue shall prescribe.

(b) The licensee shall submit an annual report to the
Department of Revenue containing such information as the
Department of Revenue shall prescribe.

Section 9. Whoever conducts games of chance without a
license as provided in this act shall, upon conviction in a
summary proceeding, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$1000 and
costs of prosecution and in default of the payment thereof shall
undergo imprisonment for not less than 30 nor more than 120
days.

Section 10. Whoever sells or causes to be sold any game of
chance to any person under the age of 21 years shall, upon
conviction in a summary proceeding, be sentenced to pay a fine
of \$1000 and costs of prosecution and in default of the payment

1 thereof shall undergo imprisonment for not less than 30 nor more
2 than 120 days.

3 Section 11. All acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar
4 as they are inconsistent herewith.