

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 592 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY SCHRODER, BAKER, BRENNAN, CLYMER, EVERETT, GEORGE, HESS, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, KORTZ, MILLARD, MIRABITO, OBERLANDER, READSHAW, ROCK, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, SWANGER, TALLMAN AND VULAKOVICH, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2012 as "Problem Gambling
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and observing the week of
3 March 4 through 10, 2012, as "National Problem Gambling
4 Awareness Week."

5 WHEREAS, Some individuals across the country and in this
6 Commonwealth enjoy the recreational aspects of legalized
7 gambling; and

8 WHEREAS, For some individuals and families, gambling becomes
9 an issue affecting and disrupting the lives of these individuals
10 and their families; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1997, the Harvard Medical School Division on
12 Addictions estimated there were 7.5 million American adult
13 problem and pathological gamblers. This same study also
14 estimated there were 7.9 million American adolescent problem and
15 pathological gamblers; and

16 WHEREAS, The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the
17 University of Chicago found that the presence of a gambling

1 facility within 50 miles roughly doubles the prevalence of
2 problem and pathological gamblers; and

3 WHEREAS, The NORC reports that children of compulsive
4 gamblers are often prone to suffer abuse and neglect as a result
5 of parental problem or pathological gambling. These same
6 children of compulsive gamblers also consistently show higher
7 rates of pathological gambling. In addition, children of problem
8 gamblers have been shown to have higher levels of use for
9 tobacco, alcohol, drug use and overeating than do their
10 classroom peers; and

11 WHEREAS, The National Research Council reported on two
12 studies indicating between 10% and 17% of children of compulsive
13 gamblers had been abused; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the National Research Council, studies
15 indicate that 25% to 50% of spouses of pathological gamblers
16 have been abused; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Research Council also reports that
18 case studies of ten casino communities revealed that the
19 majority of those communities witnessed increases in domestic
20 violence related to the opening of casinos; and

21 WHEREAS, Studies of Gamblers Anonymous (GA) members report
22 that approximately half of the participants had stolen to gamble
23 and more than one-third had been arrested. The vast majority of
24 gambling-related crimes are nonviolent: embezzlement, check
25 forgery, stealing credit cards, fencing stolen goods, tax
26 evasion, insurance fraud, employee theft and fraud; and

27 WHEREAS, A major depressive disorder is likely to occur in
28 76% of pathological gamblers; and

29 WHEREAS, The National Gambling Impact Study Commission
30 estimated the annual cost to society for problem gambling was \$5

1 billion; and

2 WHEREAS, Problem gambling should be considered a public
3 health issue affecting individuals of all ages, races and ethnic
4 backgrounds in all communities and having a significant societal
5 and economic cost; and

6 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is treatable, and treatment is
7 effective in minimizing the harm to both individuals and society
8 as a whole; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Council on Problem Gambling is
10 coordinating the 10th Annual National Problem Gambling Awareness
11 Week campaign during March 4 through 10, 2012, which seeks to
12 educate the public about the impact of problem gambling and the
13 availability of treatment options; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
15 month of March 2012 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in
16 Pennsylvania and observe the week of March 4 through 10, 2012,
17 as "National Problem Gambling Awareness Week"; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
19 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to continue its outreach
20 efforts and to work with the Pennsylvania gaming industry as a
21 whole and with slot machine licensees to develop and implement
22 problem gambling programs at licensed facilities and further
23 promote community-based programs in this Commonwealth; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Bureau
26 of Drug and Alcohol Programs within the Department of Health,
27 the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and individuals,
28 professionals and organizations dedicated to public awareness
29 and the treatment of problem gambling to jointly create, develop
30 and promote public awareness campaigns regarding the recognition

1 and prevention of problem gambling; and be it further
2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all the
3 citizens of this Commonwealth to learn more about problem
4 gambling and the programs available to help individuals and
5 their families who have been adversely affected by this issue.