

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1975 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, CLYMER, COX, GABIG, GINGRICH,
HUTCHINSON, JOSEPHS, R. MILLER, MURT, MUSTIO, RAPP, ROAE,
ROCK, SCAVELLO, STERN AND YOUNGBLOOD, OCTOBER 26, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, OCTOBER 26, 2007

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, further providing for Pennsylvania Gaming Economic
3 Development and Tourism Fund and for compulsive and problem
4 gambling program.

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

7 Section 1. Sections 1407(c) and 1509 of Title 4 of the
8 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

9 § 1407. Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism
10 Fund.

11 * * *

12 (c) Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism
13 Fund Assessment.--Each licensed gaming entity shall pay a daily
14 assessment of 5% of its gross terminal revenue to the
15 Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund. Each
16 year, the sum of \$3,500,000 shall be transferred from the
17 Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund into
18 the Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund established

1 in section 1509 (relating to compulsive and problem gambling
2 program).

3 * * *

4 § 1509. Compulsive and problem gambling program.

5 (a) Establishment of program.--The Department of Health, in
6 consultation with organizations similar to the Mid-Atlantic
7 Addiction Training Institute, shall develop program guidelines
8 for public education, awareness and training regarding
9 compulsive and problem gambling and the treatment and prevention
10 of compulsive and problem gambling. The guidelines shall include
11 strategies for the prevention of compulsive and problem
12 gambling. The Department of Health may consult with the board
13 and licensed gaming entities to develop such strategies. The
14 program shall include:

15 (1) Maintenance of a compulsive gamblers assistance
16 organization's toll-free problem gambling telephone number to
17 provide crisis counseling and referral services to families
18 experiencing difficulty as a result of problem or compulsive
19 gambling.

20 (2) The promotion of public awareness regarding the
21 recognition and prevention of problem or compulsive gambling.

22 (3) Facilitation, through in-service training and other
23 means, of the availability of effective assistance programs
24 for problem and compulsive gamblers and family members
25 affected by problem and compulsive gambling.

26 (4) Conducting studies to identify adults and juveniles
27 in this Commonwealth who are or are at risk of becoming
28 problem or compulsive gamblers.

29 (5) Providing grants to and contracting with
30 organizations which provide services as set forth in this

1 section.

2 (6) Providing reimbursement for organizations for
3 reasonable expenses in assisting the Department of Health in
4 carrying out the purposes of this section.

5 (b) Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund.--There
6 is hereby established in the State Treasury a special fund to be
7 known as the Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund. All
8 moneys in the fund shall be expended, as provided in subsection
9 (b.1), for programs for the prevention and treatment of gambling
10 addiction and other emotional and behavioral problems associated
11 with or related to gambling addiction and for the administration
12 of the compulsive and problem gambling program. The fund shall
13 consist of money annually allocated to it from the annual
14 payment established under section 1408 (relating to transfers
15 from State Gaming Fund), money which may be allocated by the
16 board, interest earnings on moneys in the fund and any other
17 contributions, payments or deposits which may be made to the
18 fund.

19 (b.1) Allocation of fund.--A deposit into the Compulsive and
20 Problem Gambling Treatment Fund established in subsection (b)
21 shall be allocated as follows:

22 (1) Fifty percent shall be appropriated on a continuing
23 basis to the Department of Health for the purposes of this
24 section.

25 (2) Fifty percent shall be appropriated on a continuing
26 basis to the board for the purposes of this section.

27 (c) Notice of availability of assistance.--

28 (1) Each slot machine licensee shall obtain a toll-free
29 telephone number to be used to provide persons with
30 information on assistance for compulsive or problem gambling.

Each licensee shall conspicuously post signs similar to the following statement:

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available. Call (Toll-free telephone number).

The signs must be posted within 50 feet of each entrance and exit and within 50 feet of each automated teller machine location within the licensed facility.

(2) Each racetrack where slot machines are operated shall print a statement on daily racing programs provided to the general public that is similar to the following:

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available. Call (Toll-free telephone number).

(3) A licensed facility which fails to post or print the warning sign in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) shall be assessed a fine of \$1,000 a day for each day the sign is not posted or printed as provided in this subsection.

(d) Single county authorities.--The Department of Health [may] shall make grants from the fund established under subsection (b) to a single county authority created pursuant to the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.221, No.63), known as the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act, for the purpose of providing compulsive gambling and gambling addiction prevention, treatment and education programs. It is the intention of the General Assembly that any grants that the Department of Health may make to any single county authority in accordance with the provisions of this subsection be used exclusively for the development and implementation of compulsive and problem gambling programs authorized under subsection (a). At least 80% of the annual share of the fund appropriated for use by the Department of Health in subsection (b.1) shall be

1 allocated for grants under this subsection. Any unused portion
2 of the funds shall remain available for grants in succeeding
3 years.

4 (d.1) Nonprofit entities.--

5 (1) The board shall make grants from the fund
6 established under subsection (b) for the purpose of providing
7 compulsive gambling and gambling addiction prevention,
8 treatment and education programs to any organization that:

9 (i) is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as
10 an exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code of
11 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) et seq.);
12 and

13 (ii) provides services compatible with the purposes
14 of this subsection, including, but not limited to,
15 dissemination of information on compulsive gambling and
16 facilitation of referrals for treatment.

17 (2) At least 95% of the funds appropriated for use by
18 the board in subsection (b.1) shall be allocated for grants
19 under this subsection. Any unused portion of the funds shall
20 remain available for grants in succeeding years.

21 (e) Definition.--As used in subsection (d), the term "single
22 county authority" means the agency designated by the Department
23 of Health pursuant to the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.221,
24 No.63), known as the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control
25 Act, to plan and coordinate drug and alcohol prevention,
26 intervention and treatment services for a geographic area, which
27 may consist of one or more counties.

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