

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 619      Session of  
                  2015

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, KOTIK, YOUNGBLOOD, DUNBAR, READSHAW,  
MUSTIO, D. COSTA, GIBBONS, MAHONEY, WARNER, DONATUCCI,  
SCHWEYER, COHEN, FLYNN, NEILSON AND McNEILL,  
DECEMBER 14, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, DECEMBER 14, 2015

## A RESOLUTION

1    Urging the Congress of the United States to lift the Federal ban  
2    on sports betting and to allow states that authorize, license  
3    and regulate casino gaming, including the Commonwealth of  
4    Pennsylvania, to legalize sports betting through its licensed  
5    facilities.

6       WHEREAS, In 1992, Congress enacted the Federal Professional  
7    and Amateur Sports Protection Act (28 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq.),  
8    establishing a general prohibition on sports betting in the  
9    United States and prohibiting state and local governments from  
10   authorizing sports betting; and

11       WHEREAS, Section 3702 of the Professional and Amateur Sports  
12   Protection Act specifically provides that it is unlawful for "a  
13   governmental entity to sponsor, operate, advertise, promote,  
14   license, or authorize by law or compact...a lottery,  
15   sweepstakes, or other betting, gambling, or wagering scheme  
16   based, directly or indirectly...on one or more competitive games  
17   in which amateur or professional athletes participate, or are  
18   intended to participate, or on one or more performances of such

1 athletes in such games"; and

2 WHEREAS, Even amid strong Federal laws banning sports betting  
3 in the United States, reports highlight that illegal sports  
4 betting is widespread and is considered the number one form of  
5 gambling among American residents; and

6 WHEREAS, According to a 2008 report conducted for the  
7 National Basketball Association's Board of Governors, some  
8 estimates have the total volume of sports betting in the United  
9 States at \$325 to \$400 billion, with less than 1% of betting  
10 taking place in legal form; and

11 WHEREAS, The proliferation of fantasy sports betting,  
12 primarily daily fantasy sports contests played through Internet  
13 websites, has become a household occurrence, with the Fantasy  
14 Sports Trade Association estimating that 56.8 million people  
15 play fantasy sports and bet an average of \$465 a year on fantasy  
16 games in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Fantasy sports betting, primarily through Internet  
18 websites, blurs the lines with regard to sports betting in  
19 general, and the Federal Government has left the determination  
20 of the legality and regulation of fantasy sports to states; and

21 WHEREAS, In order to protect the public and ensure the  
22 integrity of not only professional sports but the Commonwealth's  
23 current licensed gaming industry, the Federal Government must  
24 adapt to changing perceptions of sports betting and allow states  
25 that offer legal forms of gaming to decide if licensing and  
26 regulating sports betting is in the best interest of its  
27 residents; and

28 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth would also benefit financially  
29 from lifting the Federal ban on sports betting as increased  
30 revenues would be generated and numerous jobs would be created

1 for residents of this Commonwealth as a result of sports betting  
2 activities at licensed facilities across this Commonwealth,  
3 further enhancing tourism and economic growth; and

4 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of  
5 Pennsylvania recognizes the significance that legalizing and  
6 regulating sports betting would have on the Commonwealth and  
7 maintains that policies relating to licensed gaming should be  
8 decided by the states; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
11 States to lift the Federal ban on sports betting and allow  
12 states that authorize, license and regulate casino gaming,  
13 including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to legalize sports  
14 betting through its licensed facilities.