



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 290

PRINTERS NO. 772

PRIME SPONSOR: Brooks

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 290, Printer's Number 772, amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act further providing for definitions and for games of chance permitted; for prize limits; for regulations of the Department of Revenue and licensing of eligible organizations; for revocation of licenses and enforcement by the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement; for reports; for distribution of proceeds; and for social card games.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act allowing for new games of chance. Specifically, definitions of the following new games are added: coin auctions, poker runs, race night games, selective raffles and vertical wheel games. Furthermore, Chapter 8 (Social Card Games) is added providing for card games and card game tournaments with certain restrictions. Social card games may include poker games, hearts, rummy, pinochle and bid whist. Language is added to the act clarifying that a vertical wheel game or Texas Hold'em tournament is not a "table game" as defined under 4 Pa.C.S §1103.

Section 302 of the act is amended by increasing the prize limit amounts from \$25,000 to \$35,000 for games of chance during any seven-day period. No individual playing a vertical wheel game may play more than \$10 per game and vertical wheel games are limited to 15 days during a licensed term.

Clarifications and technical changes are made to the licensing process and requirements of licensees, time period for keeping records, background checks and enforcement powers. An organization is permitted to hold its small games of chance at another organization's licensed premise and each organization may operate games at the same time.

The legislation provides additional rules and regulations for the use of proceeds. The definition of "public interest purpose" is expanded to allow the use of proceeds for historic preservation, conservation, athletic, sportsman's safety and education or civic services or benefits. An eligible organization, except a club licensee, operating solely in the public interest may retain proceeds to fulfill the public interest purpose of the eligible organization. Club licensees may retain \$40,000 of the proceeds with no restrictions on the use.

The Department of Revenue shall review the act and provide a report to the General Assembly on March 1, 2015, and every two years thereafter, with recommendations of changes and revisions to the act.

The act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: February 12, 2013