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Senate of Pennsylvania

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Tim Solobay 

DATE: January 11, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship Memo #1: Expansion of Small Games of Chance (SB 169)

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce HB 169 from last session, a bill on which I worked during my time in the House of Representatives. It will be known as SB 169 for this session.

Highlights of SB 169 include amending the Local Options Small Games of Chance Act by:

- Increasing the ceilings on the cash value of small games of chance prizes:
 - From \$500 to \$1,000 for individual daily drawing prizes, which include “member sign-in lotteries” and “half and half lotteries” and other small games of chance.
 - From \$5,000 to \$25,000 in total weekly payouts.
- Permitting the implementation of progressive games (maximum prize value: \$5,000) and insured games.
- Allowing licensed associations which conduct small games of chance to allocate up to forty percent of the revenue generated to “general operating expenses,” where there was no previous permission to do so.
- Allowing emergency service organizations to carry one fundraiser per year to help fund the cost of equipment procurement.
- Permitting advertisement of games and potential prizes to the membership of the organization.

SB 169 also provides for rigorous recordkeeping, requiring each organization to acquire a license to conduct small games of chance. If a building houses more than one organization, each entity which uses the building must apply for a license. The bill requires every licensed association to keep a separate bank account for depositing and distributing prize money from small games of chance. Additionally, the bill allows for law enforcement officials to investigate suspected violations of licensed associations.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Rachel Moore at rmoore@pasenate.com or 7-1463.