

July 22, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Paul Costa

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation - **UNDERAGE GAMBLING**

When the House reconvenes, I will introduce legislation to make underage gambling a criminal offense under Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. With the increased number of underage gambling violations, the intent of my legislation is to institute consequences that are punitive for young adults who violate the prohibition.

Although a provision of Title 4 (the Gaming Act) makes it unlawful for individuals less than 21 years of age to wager, play or attempt to play a slot machine or table games at a licensed facility, there is nothing in Title 18 that makes underage gambling a criminal offense. The Title 4 prohibition against underage gaming is classified as a non-gambling summary offense.

Consequently, my legislation would amend Title 18 to make gambling by underage individuals a summary offense punishable by payment of a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$2000 for a first offense. A conviction for a second or subsequent offense would be classified as a misdemeanor 3 punishable by payment of a fine of not less than \$2000 or more than \$5000. My legislation would also require community service, forfeiture or payback of winnings, inclusion of the offender's name on excluded persons' lists for a specified period, and a patronage ban, which would prohibit entry to licensed facilities statewide for a specific period.

If you would like to join me as a sponsor of this legislation, please email my Legislative Assistant, Peggy Kieres at [pkieres@pahouse.net](mailto:pkieres@pahouse.net) or call 783-1914 (Ext.6194).