



PENNSYLVANIA LICENSED BEVERAGE & TAVERN ASSOCIATION

October 18, 2019

RE: HB 1598

Chairman Marshall, Chairman Conklin, Members of the House Gaming Oversight Committee:

The Pennsylvania Licensed Beverage and Tavern Association (PLBTA) appreciates the opportunity to express our position on HB 1598.

The PLBTA has often stated our support for having a "level playing field" for all licensees, to avoid state driven policies that create market advantages for some licensees. We promise this committee that we will work with you to ensure equity while protecting the investments of our member/owner retail licensees.

The tavern gaming model is not working. Very few bars across the state participate. It's simply not an attractive business model that has resulted in little profit for taverns after significant work and taxes.

Representative Moul is to be commended for his efforts in HB 1598 to improve the situation for taverns by lowering license application fees, eliminating the Gaming Board investigation process, and lowering the revenue share to the state from 60 to 50 percent. These improvements should increase the revenue kept by taverns. Defining net revenue is also very helpful. In addition, we support skill machine revenue opportunities for taverns.

At the same time, keeping a balance between clubs and bars is very important since both compete for customers within their communities. We encourage the committee to ensure equality in gaming between the two business types, particularly regarding the type of games allowed, assessed fees, and net revenue share.

We appreciate your willingness to consider the opinions of the many stakeholders as you debate HB 1598. We encourage you to work with us to further improve HB 1598. And we hope to continue working with you to establish a balanced playing field for Small Games of Chance to ensure fair competition.

Thanks for your consideration of our position.

Best regards,

Chuck Moran, Executive Director
PA Licensed Beverage and Tavern Association

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