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PARX CASINO TESTIMONY ON HB1247

Written Testimony of Parx Casino before the House Transportation Committee on HB1247, Digital Identification Cards

Date: February 13, 2024

Chairman Neilson, Chairman Benninghoff, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of Parx Casino. We would like to express our strong support for Representative Miller's HB1247, establishing a digital identification framework for Pennsylvania and to highlight the significant benefits it can bring to our industry.

The gaming industry in Pennsylvania has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years, not only is the industry being attacked in Pennsylvania by the explosion of so-called skill games, but we've seen remarkable transformation driven by technological advancements and changing consumer preferences in how they consume gaming options. As casinos continue to embrace digital innovation and expand both their bricks and mortar offerings and online presence, the need for robust and reliable identity verification measures is critical.

The comprehensive framework for addressing this need within HB1247 provides clear guidelines and standards for the implementation of digital identity verification solutions and we believe is a good step forward for Pennsylvania. By establishing a regulatory framework that encourages the adoption of a digital identification for the state, this legislation can help casinos enhance security, streamline operations, and protect the integrity of their gaming platforms and gaming floors.

One of the key advantages of digital identification is its ability to provide a seamless and user-friendly experience for patrons. By enabling individuals to verify their identities electronically, casinos can eliminate the need for cumbersome manual checks and further investigation, reducing wait times and enhancing the overall customer experience. This, in turn, can help attract new customers and drive growth in the gaming industry.

Furthermore, digital identification legislation can play a crucial role in combating fraud and promoting responsible gaming practices by keeping underage gamblers off of our gaming floors and off of our online platforms. By implementing robust identity verification measures, casinos can reduce the risk of underage gambling, money laundering, and other illicit activities, thus creating a safer and more secure gaming environment for all patrons.

In addition to enhancing security and compliance, digital identification legislation can also unlock new opportunities for innovation and collaboration within the gaming industry. By establishing common standards and protocols for identity verification, this legislation can facilitate interoperability between different gaming platforms and promote the development of new technologies and services that benefit both businesses and consumers.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to support HB1247. It is legislation that promotes innovation, enhances security, and fosters responsible gaming practices. By embracing digital identity verification, we can build a stronger, more resilient gaming industry that delivers value for all stakeholders while upholding the highest standards of integrity and trust.

Thank you for your attention and willingness to look at this issue.

Sincerely,

Dick Gmerek, Gmerek Government Relations, Sean Schafer, Schafer Government Affairs, On behalf of Parx Casino