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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 652 Session of  
2008

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INTRODUCED BY SCHRODER, CLYMER, GABIG, REICHLLEY, VEREB, ARGALL,  
BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, CAUSER, CIVERA, CUTLER, DALLY,  
DENLINGER, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GRELL, HARHART, HARPER,  
HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, KORTZ,  
MACKERETH, MAHER, MARSICO, MENSCH, METCALFE, R. MILLER, MOUL,  
MOYER, MUSTIO, NICKOL, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PERRY, RAPP,  
REED, ROAE, ROHRER, SAYLOR, S. H. SMITH, STERN, R. STEVENSON,  
J. TAYLOR, TRUE, TURZAI, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, BEAR AND  
EVERETT, APRIL 3, 2008

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, APRIL 3, 2008

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A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a select committee to study and make  
2 recommendations concerning the licensing process for casinos.

3 WHEREAS, On July 5, 2004, Governor Edward Rendell signed into  
4 law the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act,  
5 allowing for 14 licensed casinos in this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Seven of the casinos are required to be located at  
7 racetracks, five are required to be stand-alone facilities and  
8 two are required to be located at resorts; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board is prohibited  
10 from issuing or renewing a license unless the board is satisfied  
11 that the applicant is a person of good character, honesty and  
12 integrity and the applicant's prior activities, criminal record,  
13 if any, reputation, habits and associations do not pose a threat  
14 to the public interest; and

1       WHEREAS, During the licensure process, each applicant must  
2 supply the board with the name, address and specific background  
3 information of the applicant, principal owners, key employees  
4 and directors of the applicant; and

5       WHEREAS, Recent developments have led the public to question  
6 whether all relevant background information was made available  
7 to the board by the applicants or by the Bureau of  
8 Investigations and Enforcement of the Pennsylvania Gaming  
9 Control Board; and

10       WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the Commonwealth to  
11 determine if the board acted properly in granting licenses under  
12 the act; therefore be it

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives establish a  
14 select committee to study and make recommendations concerning  
15 all of the following:

16           (1) The licensing process used by the board in issuing  
17 licenses and permits under the act.

18           (2) The interaction and cooperation between the  
19 Pennsylvania State Police and the board.

20           (3) The openness and transparency of the licensing and  
21 permit process used by the board.

22           (4) The licensing and background investigation process  
23 in other gaming jurisdictions.

24           (5) Information and recommendations of the Fourth  
25 Dauphin County Investigating Grand Jury;

26 and be it further

27       RESOLVED, That the select committee be composed of the  
28 following members:

29           (1) The majority chairman of the Gaming Oversight  
30 Committee.

1           (2) The minority chairman of the Gaming Oversight  
2 Committee.

3           (3) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the  
4 House of Representatives.

5           (4) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
6 House of Representatives.

7           (5) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House  
8 of Representatives, two of whom shall be members of the  
9 majority party of the House of Representatives and two of  
10 whom shall be members of the minority party of the House of  
11 Representatives;

12 and be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the chairman of the select committee be  
14 selected by the members of the committee; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That the select committee hold hearings and take  
16 testimony at any place it deems necessary; and be it further

17       RESOLVED, That the select committee be empowered to issue  
18 subpoenas under the hand and seal of the chairman of the select  
19 committee commanding any person to appear before it, to answer  
20 questions touching matters properly being inquired into by the  
21 committee and to produce books, papers, records, accounts,  
22 reports and documents as the committee deems necessary; and be  
23 it further

24       RESOLVED, That any person appearing before the select  
25 committee be administered an oath or affirmation, as  
26 appropriate; and be it further

27       RESOLVED, That the committee also cause the deposition of  
28 witnesses either residing within or outside this Commonwealth to  
29 be taken in the manner prescribed by law; and be it further

30       RESOLVED, That any person who willfully neglects or refuses

1 to testify before the committee or to produce any books, papers,  
2 records, documents or data and information produced and stored  
3 by any electronic data processing system be subject to the  
4 penalties provided under the laws of this Commonwealth in such  
5 case; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the staff of the Committee on Gaming Oversight  
7 and the staff of the Committee on Judiciary assist the select  
8 committee to the extent deemed necessary by the select  
9 committee; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk be authorized to pay for the  
11 reasonable, appropriate and proper expenses incurred by the  
12 committee, including contracting for specialized services; and  
13 be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the select committee report its findings and  
15 recommendations to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the  
16 House of Representatives and the Attorney General of this  
17 Commonwealth no later than 90 days after the adoption of this  
18 resolution.