
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1283 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, CAUSER, KILLION, BAKER, BEAR,
BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, DAY, DENLINGER, ELLIS,
GABLER, GINGRICH, GROVE, HARHART, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN,
MENSCH, METZGAR, MOUL, PEIFER, PYLE, QUINN, RAPP, ROAE,
SCHRODER, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, VULAKOVICH AND WATSON,
APRIL 20, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, APRIL 20, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, further providing for compulsive and problem
3 gambling program.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 1509 of Title 4 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 1509. Compulsive and problem gambling program.

9 (a) Establishment of program.--The Department of Health, in
10 consultation with organizations similar to the Mid-Atlantic
11 Addiction Training Institute, shall develop program guidelines
12 for public education, awareness and training regarding
13 compulsive and problem gambling and the treatment and prevention
14 of compulsive and problem gambling. The guidelines shall include
15 strategies for the prevention of compulsive and problem
16 gambling. The Department of Health may consult with the board

1 and licensed gaming entities to develop such strategies. The
2 program shall include:

3 (1) Maintenance of a compulsive gamblers assistance
4 organization's toll-free problem gambling telephone number to
5 provide crisis counseling and referral services to families
6 experiencing difficulty as a result of problem or compulsive
7 gambling.

8 (2) The promotion of public awareness regarding the
9 recognition and prevention of problem or compulsive gambling.

10 (3) Facilitation, through in-service training and other
11 means, of the availability of effective assistance programs
12 for problem and compulsive gamblers and family members
13 affected by problem and compulsive gambling.

14 (4) Conducting studies to identify adults and juveniles
15 in this Commonwealth who are or are at risk of becoming
16 problem or compulsive gamblers.

17 (5) Providing grants to and contracting with
18 organizations which provide services as set forth in this
19 section.

20 (6) Providing reimbursement for organizations for
21 reasonable expenses in assisting the Department of Health in
22 carrying out the purposes of this section.

23 (b) Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund.--There
24 is hereby established in the State Treasury a special fund to be
25 known as the Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund. All
26 moneys in the fund shall be expended, as provided in subsection
27 (b.1), for programs for the prevention and treatment of gambling
28 addiction and other emotional and behavioral problems associated
29 with or related to gambling addiction and for the administration
30 of the compulsive and problem gambling program. The fund shall

1 consist of money annually allocated to it from the annual
2 payment established under section 1408 (relating to transfers
3 from State Gaming Fund), money which may be allocated by the
4 board, interest earnings on moneys in the fund and any other
5 contributions, payments or deposits which may be made to the
6 fund.

7 (b.1) Allocation of fund.--A deposit into the Compulsive and
8 Problem Gambling Treatment Fund established in subsection (b)
9 shall be allocated as follows:

10 (1) Fifty percent shall be appropriated on a continuing
11 basis to the Department of Health for the purposes of this
12 section.

13 (2) Fifty percent shall be appropriated on a continuing
14 basis to the board for the purposes of this section.

15 (c) Notice of availability of assistance.--

16 (1) Each slot machine licensee shall obtain a toll-free
17 telephone number to be used to provide persons with
18 information on assistance for compulsive or problem gambling.
19 Each licensee shall conspicuously post signs similar to the
20 following statement:

21 If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help
22 is available. Call (Toll-free telephone number).

23 The signs must be posted within 50 feet of each entrance
24 and exit and within 50 feet of each automated teller machine
25 location within the licensed facility.

26 (2) Each racetrack where slot machines are operated
27 shall print a statement on daily racing programs provided to
28 the general public that is similar to the following:

29 If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help
30 is available. Call (Toll-free telephone number).

1 (3) A licensed facility which fails to post or print the
2 warning sign in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) shall be
3 assessed a fine of \$1,000 a day for each day the sign is not
4 posted or printed as provided in this subsection.

5 (d) Single county authorities.--The Department of Health
6 [may] shall make grants from the fund established under
7 subsection (b) to a single county authority created pursuant to
8 the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.221, No.63), known as the
9 Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act, for the purpose
10 of providing compulsive gambling and gambling addiction
11 prevention, treatment and education programs. It is the
12 intention of the General Assembly that any grants that the
13 Department of Health may make to any single county authority in
14 accordance with the provisions of this subsection be used
15 exclusively for the development and implementation of compulsive
16 and problem gambling programs authorized under subsection (a).
17 At least 40% of the annual share of the fund appropriated for
18 use by the Department of Health in subsection (b.1) shall be
19 allocated for grants under this subsection. Any unused portion
20 of the funds shall remain available for grants in succeeding
21 years.

22 (d.1) Nonprofit entities.--

23 (1) The board shall make grants from the fund
24 established under subsection (b) for the purpose of providing
25 compulsive gambling and gambling addiction prevention,
26 treatment and education programs to any organization that:

27 (i) is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as
28 an exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code of
29 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) et seq.);
30 and

1 (ii) provides services compatible with the purposes
2 of this subsection, including, but not limited to,
3 dissemination of information on compulsive gambling and
4 facilitation of referrals for treatment.

5 (2) At least 95% of the funds appropriated for use by
6 the board in subsection (b.1) shall be allocated for grants
7 under this subsection. Any unused portion of the funds shall
8 remain available for grants in succeeding years.

9 (e) Definition.--As used in subsection (d), the term "single
10 county authority" means the agency designated by the Department
11 of Health pursuant to the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.221,
12 No.63), known as the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control
13 Act, to plan and coordinate drug and alcohol prevention,
14 intervention and treatment services for a geographic area, which
15 may consist of one or more counties.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.