

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 620 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY GOODMAN, GERGELY, SAINATO, BELFANTI, BRIGGS, CALTAGIRONE, CREIGHTON, GEIST, GRUCELA, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, LENTZ, MAHONEY, MARKOSEK, MATZIE, MUNDY, MURPHY, PALLONE, PETRARCA, READSHAW, SEIP, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STURLA, WANSACZ, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK AND DALEY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, FEBRUARY 8, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study
 2 the feasibility of providing additional financial aid to
 3 families for higher education through the implementation of
 4 keno games at retail liquor establishments.

5 WHEREAS, Last year the State Board of Education found that
 6 the cost of higher education is a great burden to many
 7 Pennsylvania families, including middle class families; and

8 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education estimated that families
 9 earning between \$60,000 and \$150,000 annually with a dependent
 10 student attending a Pennsylvania State System of Higher
 11 Education institution pay between 10% and 20% of their income in
 12 college costs; and

13 WHEREAS, Generally a family earning up to \$66,000 in annual
 14 income can qualify for financial aid through the Pennsylvania
 15 Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), but there are many
 16 middle class families who fall above the agency's income
 17 guidelines and are truly struggling to afford tuition; and

1 WHEREAS, More must be done to help middle class families who
2 do not qualify for aid through PHEAA; and

3 WHEREAS, Keno games are operated by lottery systems in 14
4 states and in the District of Columbia with tremendous success;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Keno consistently ranks as one of the top revenue
7 generators for state lotteries across the country; and

8 WHEREAS, Keno may be a viable revenue source for providing
9 more middle class families with financial assistance for higher
10 education; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
12 be directed to conduct a study of the feasibility of authorizing
13 the implementation of keno games at establishments that hold a
14 retail liquor license under the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90,
15 No.21), known as the Liquor Code, to be overseen by the
16 Pennsylvania Lottery, with the proceeds being used to fund
17 financial aid programs for families whose annual incomes are
18 between \$60,000 and \$150,000; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the committee determine the impact of
20 authorizing keno games in this manner on Pennsylvania Lottery
21 sales and on gaming facilities authorized under Title 4 of the
22 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the study include a review of best practices
24 from other states whose state lotteries oversee keno games; and
25 be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the study also include an estimate of the
27 revenues that can be expected from keno games, as well as a
28 survey of the keno game tax rates assessed in other states; and
29 be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the committee seek assistance from the

1 Department of Revenue in developing guidelines for the
2 implementation of keno games in Pennsylvania; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That the committee seek assistance from PHEAA in
4 developing guidelines for distributing financial aid derived
5 from State keno revenues to students with family incomes between
6 \$60,000 and \$150,000; and be it further
7 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
8 report its findings to the House of Representatives within six
9 months following the adoption of this resolution.