
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1843 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, TOOHL, DiGIROLAMO, FEE, SAYLOR, GROVE,
PHILLIPS-HILL, KNOWLES, CUTLER, DIAMOND, MASSER, EVERETT,
WARD, READSHAW, IRVIN, ORTITAY, RADER, WATSON, B. MILLER,
HELM AND BOBACK, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in administration and enforcement, further
3 providing for compulsive and problem 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]
10 Drug and Alcohol Programs, in consultation with organizations
11 similar to the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Training Institute, shall
12 develop program guidelines for public education, awareness and
13 training regarding compulsive and problem gambling and the
14 treatment and prevention of compulsive and problem gambling. The
15 guidelines shall include strategies for the prevention of
16 compulsive and problem gambling. The Department of [Health] Drug
17 and Alcohol Programs may consult with the board and licensed

1 gaming entities to develop such strategies.

2 (a.1) Duties of Department of [Health] Drug and Alcohol
3 Programs.--From funds available in the Compulsive and Problem
4 Gambling Treatment Fund, the Department of [Health] Drug and
5 Alcohol Programs shall:

6 (1) Maintain a compulsive gamblers assistance
7 organization's toll-free problem gambling telephone number to
8 provide crisis counseling and referral services to
9 individuals and families experiencing difficulty as a result
10 of problem or compulsive gambling.

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

15 (3) At its discretion, conduct studies to identify
16 individuals in this Commonwealth who are or are at risk of
17 becoming problem or compulsive gamblers.

18 (4) Provide grants to and contract with single county
19 authorities and other organizations which provide services as
20 set forth in this section.

21 (5) Reimburse organizations for reasonable expenses
22 incurred assisting the Department of [Health] Drug and
23 Alcohol Programs with implementing this section.

24 (a.2) Duties of Department of [Health] Drug and Alcohol
25 Programs and board.--Within 60 days following the effective date
26 of this subsection, the Department of [Health's Bureau of] Drug
27 and Alcohol Programs and the board's Office of Compulsive and
28 Problem Gambling shall jointly collaborate with other
29 appropriate offices and agencies of State or local government,
30 including single county authorities, and providers and other

1 persons, public or private, with expertise in compulsive and
2 problem gambling treatment to do the following:

3 (1) Implement a strategic plan for the prevention and
4 treatment of compulsive and problem gambling.

5 (2) Adopt compulsive and problem gambling treatment
6 standards to be integrated with the [Bureau] Department of
7 Drug and Alcohol Program's uniform Statewide guidelines that
8 govern the provision of addiction treatment services.

9 (3) Develop a method to coordinate compulsive and
10 problem gambling data collection and referral information to
11 crisis response hotlines, child welfare and domestic violence
12 programs and providers and other appropriate programs and
13 providers.

14 (4) Develop and disseminate educational materials to
15 provide public awareness related to the prevention,
16 recognition and treatment of compulsive and problem gambling.

17 (5) Develop demographic-specific compulsive and problem
18 gambling prevention, intervention and treatment programs.

19 (6) Prepare an itemized budget outlining how funds will
20 be allocated to fulfill the responsibilities under this
21 section.

22 (b) Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund.--There
23 is hereby established in the State Treasury a special fund to be
24 known as the Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund. All
25 moneys in the fund shall be administered by the Department of
26 [Health] Drug and Alcohol Programs and expended solely for
27 programs for the prevention and treatment of gambling addiction
28 and other emotional and behavioral problems associated with or
29 related to gambling addiction and for the administration of the
30 compulsive and problem gambling program, provided that the

1 Department of [Health] Drug and Alcohol Programs shall annually
2 distribute at least 50% of the money in the fund to single
3 county authorities under subsection (d). The fund shall consist
4 of money annually allocated to it from the annual payment
5 established under section 1408(a) (relating to transfers from
6 State Gaming Fund), money which may be allocated by the board,
7 interest earnings on moneys in the fund and any other
8 contributions, payments or deposits which may be made to the
9 fund.

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

11 (1) Each slot machine licensee shall obtain a toll-free
12 telephone number to be used to provide persons with
13 information on assistance for compulsive or problem gambling.
14 Each licensee shall conspicuously post at least 20 signs
15 similar to the following statement:

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

18 The signs must be posted within 50 feet of each entrance and
19 exit, within 50 feet of each automated teller machine
20 location within the licensed facility and in other
21 appropriate public areas of the licensed facility as
22 determined by the slot machine licensee.

23 (2) Each racetrack where slot machines or table games
24 are operated shall print a statement on daily racing programs
25 provided to the general public that is similar to the
26 following:

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

29 (3) A licensed facility which fails to post or print the
30 warning sign in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) shall be

1 assessed a fine of \$1,000 a day for each day the minimum
2 number of signs are not posted or the required statement is
3 not printed as provided in this subsection.

4 (d) Single county authorities.--The Department of [Health]
5 Drug and Alcohol Programs shall make grants from the fund
6 established under subsection (b) to single county authorities
7 created pursuant to the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.221, No.63),
8 known as the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act,
9 for the purpose of providing compulsive gambling and gambling
10 addiction prevention, treatment and education programs.
11 Treatment may include financial counseling, irrespective of
12 whether the financial counseling is provided by the single
13 county authority, the treatment service provider or
14 subcontracted to a third party. It is the intention of the
15 General Assembly that any grants made by the Department of
16 [Health] Drug and Alcohol Programs to any single county
17 authority in accordance with the provisions of this subsection
18 be used exclusively for the development and implementation of
19 compulsive and problem gambling programs authorized under this
20 section.

21 (d.1) Eligibility.--Eligibility to receive treatment
22 services for treatment of compulsive and problem gambling under
23 this section shall be determined using financial eligibility and
24 other requirements of the single county authorities as approved
25 by the Department of [Health] Drug and Alcohol Programs.

26 (d.2) Report.--No later than October 1, 2010, and each
27 October 1 thereafter, the Department of [Health] Drug and
28 Alcohol Programs, in consultation with the board, shall prepare
29 and submit a report on the impact of the programs funded by the
30 Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund to the Governor

1 and to the members of the General Assembly. The report shall
2 include aggregate demographic-specific data, including race,
3 gender, geography and income of those individuals treated.

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

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