PRINTER'S NO. 574

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 99 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY PAYNE AND KOTIK, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of March 2015 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Individuals across the country and in this Commonwealth enjoy the recreational aspects of legalized gambling; and

WHEREAS, For some individuals and families, gambling becomes an issue affecting and disrupting the lives of these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, The National Council of Problem Gambling (NCPG) reports that 2% to 3% of the United States population, which equates to between six to nine million Americans, will have a gambling problem in any given year; and

WHEREAS, Problem gambling is a public health issue affecting individuals of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds in all communities and having a significant societal and economic cost; and

WHEREAS, Problem gambling is treatable, and treatment is effective in minimizing the harm to individuals, families and

society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Only a limited number of individuals affected by problem gambling seek treatment options and utilize existing problem gambling programs; and

WHEREAS, Numerous individuals, professionals and organizations have dedicated their efforts to public awareness of problem gambling and the availability and effectiveness of treatment; and

WHEREAS, The NCPG is coordinating the First National Problem Gambling Awareness Month during March, which seeks to educate the public about the impact of problem gambling and the availability of treatment options; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of March 2015 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to continue its outreach efforts and to work with the Pennsylvania gaming industry to develop and implement problem gambling programs and further promote community-based programs in this Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Department of Health in conjunction with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and individuals, professionals and organizations dedicated to public awareness and treatment of problem gambling to jointly create, develop and promote public awareness campaigns regarding the recognition and prevention of problem gambling; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all the

citizens of this Commonwealth to learn more about problem gambling and the programs available to help individuals and their families who have been adversely affected by this issue.