
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 271 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, DUNBAR, ENGLISH,
KORTZ, WARD AND YOUNGBLOOD, JANUARY 31, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, JANUARY 31, 2017

AN ACT

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

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

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

9 § 1509. Compulsive and problem gambling program.

10 (a) Establishment of program.--The Department of [Health]
11 Drug and Alcohol Programs, in consultation with organizations
12 similar to the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Training Institute, shall
13 develop program guidelines for public education, awareness and
14 training regarding compulsive and problem gambling and the
15 treatment and prevention of compulsive and problem gambling. The
16 guidelines shall include strategies for the prevention of
17 compulsive and problem gambling. The Department of [Health] Drug
18 and Alcohol Programs may consult with the board and licensed
19 gaming entities to develop such strategies.

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

5 (1) Maintain [a] one compulsive gamblers assistance
6 organization's toll-free problem gambling telephone number,
7 which shall be the number 1-800-GAMBLER, to provide crisis
8 counseling and referral services to individuals and families
9 experiencing difficulty as a result of problem or compulsive
10 gambling. If the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
11 determines that it is unable to adopt the number 1-800-
12 GAMBLER, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs shall
13 maintain another number.

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

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

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

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

27 (a.2) Duties of Department of [Health] Drug and Alcohol
28 Programs and board.--[Within 60 days following the effective
29 date of this subsection, the] The Department of [Health's Bureau
30 of] Drug and Alcohol Programs and the board's Office of

1 Compulsive and Problem Gambling shall jointly collaborate with
2 other appropriate offices and agencies of State or local
3 government, including single county authorities, and providers
4 and other persons, public or private, with expertise in
5 compulsive and problem gambling treatment to do the following:

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

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

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

17 (4) Develop and disseminate educational materials to
18 provide public awareness related to the prevention,
19 recognition and treatment of compulsive and problem gambling.

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

22 (6) Prepare an itemized budget outlining how funds will
23 be allocated to fulfill the responsibilities under this
24 section.

25 (b) Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund.--There
26 is hereby established in the State Treasury a special fund to be
27 known as the Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund. All
28 moneys in the fund shall be administered by the Department of
29 [Health] Drug and Alcohol Programs and expended solely for
30 programs for the prevention and treatment of gambling addiction

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

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

14 (1) [Each] Except as otherwise provided for in paragraph
15 (4), each slot machine licensee shall [obtain a] use the
16 toll-free telephone number [to be used] established by the
17 Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs in subsection (a.1)
18 (1) to provide persons with information on assistance for
19 compulsive or problem gambling. Each licensee shall
20 conspicuously post at least 20 signs similar to the following
21 statement:

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

24 The signs must be posted within 50 feet of each entrance and
25 exit, within 50 feet of each automated teller machine
26 location within the licensed facility and in other
27 appropriate public areas of the licensed facility as
28 determined by the slot machine licensee.

29 (2) Each racetrack where slot machines or table games
30 are operated shall print a statement on daily racing programs

1 provided to the general public that is similar to the
2 following:

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

5 Except as otherwise provided for in paragraph (4), the toll-
6 free telephone number shall be the same telephone number
7 established by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
8 under subsection (a.1)(1).

9 (3) A licensed facility which fails to post or print the
10 warning sign in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) shall be
11 assessed a fine of \$1,000 a day for each day the minimum
12 number of signs are not posted or the required statement is
13 not printed as provided in this subsection.

14 (4) Slot machine licensees or racetracks utilizing a
15 toll-free telephone number other than the number established
16 by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs under
17 subsection (a.1)(1) prior to the effective date of this
18 paragraph may continue to use that number for a period not to
19 exceed three years from the effective date of this paragraph
20 upon showing good cause to the Department of Drug and Alcohol
21 Programs.

22 (d) Single county authorities.--The Department of [Health]
23 Drug and Alcohol Programs shall make grants from the fund
24 established under subsection (b) to single county authorities
25 created pursuant to the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.221, No.63),
26 known as the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act,
27 for the purpose of providing compulsive gambling and gambling
28 addiction prevention, treatment and education programs.
29 Treatment may include financial counseling, irrespective of
30 whether the financial counseling is provided by the single

1 county authority, the treatment service provider or
2 subcontracted to a third party. It is the intention of the
3 General Assembly that any grants made by the Department of
4 [Health] Drug and Alcohol Programs to any single county
5 authority in accordance with the provisions of this subsection
6 be used exclusively for the development and implementation of
7 compulsive and problem gambling programs authorized under this
8 section.

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

14 (d.2) Report.--[No later than October 1, 2010, and each]
15 Annually on October 1 [thereafter], the Department of [Health]
16 Drug and Alcohol Programs, in consultation with the board, shall
17 prepare and submit a report on the impact of the programs funded
18 by the Compulsive and Problem Gambling Treatment Fund to the
19 Governor and to the members of the General Assembly. The report
20 shall include aggregate demographic-specific data, including
21 race, gender, geography and income of those individuals treated.

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

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