
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1725 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CONKLIN, DeLUCA, FARRY, GOODMAN, IRVIN, McNEILL,
READSHAW AND SCHWEYER, AUGUST 18, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, AUGUST 18, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156),
2 entitled "An act providing for the licensing of eligible
3 organizations to conduct games of chance, for the licensing
4 of persons to distribute games of chance, for the
5 registration of manufacturers of games of chance, and for
6 suspensions and revocations of licenses and permits;
7 requiring records; providing for local referendum by
8 electorate; and prescribing penalties," in preliminary
9 provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in games
10 of chance, further providing for prize limits and for special
11 permits.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. The definition of "games of chance" in section
15 103 of the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as
16 the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, is amended and the
17 section is amended by adding a definition to read:

18 Section 103. Definitions.

19 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
20 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
21 context clearly indicates otherwise:

22 * * *

1 "Card game contest." A card game that is conducted with
2 multiple rounds of play of a specified number of hands for each
3 round and completed within a period not to exceed 24 hours, in
4 which:

5 (1) A player's bet must stay within the minimum and
6 maximum bet allowed at the table.

7 (2) A player is eliminated from the card game if:

8 (i) the player loses all of the player's chips;

9 (ii) the player does not have enough chips to meet
10 the required minimum bet; or

11 (iii) the player has the fewest chips after a
12 certain number of hands are played.

13 (3) The winner of the card game is:

14 (i) the last player at the table; or

15 (ii) the player with the most chips after a certain
16 specified number of rounds are played.

17 * * *

18 "Games of chance." Punchboards, daily drawings, weekly
19 drawings, 50/50 drawings, raffles, tavern games, pools, race
20 night games and pull-tabs, as defined in this act, provided that
21 no such game shall be played by or with the assistance of any
22 mechanical or electrical devices or media other than a
23 dispensing machine or passive selection device and further
24 provided that the particular chance taken by any person in any
25 such game shall not be made contingent upon any other occurrence
26 or the winning of any other contest, but shall be determined
27 solely at the discretion of the purchaser. This definition
28 includes card game contests. This definition shall not be
29 construed to authorize any other form of gambling currently
30 prohibited under any provision of 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to crimes

1 and offenses) or authorized under 4 Pa.C.S. (relating to
2 amusements). Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize
3 games commonly known as "slot machines" or "video poker" or
4 other games regulated by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

5 * * *

6 Section 2. Section 302 of the act is amended by adding a
7 subsection to read:

8 Section 302. Prize limits.

9 * * *

10 (j) Card game contest limits.--Notwithstanding any other
11 provision of this act to the contrary, the maximum cash value
12 that may be awarded for a single card game in a card game
13 contest shall be \$500.

14 Section 3. Section 308 of the act is amended to read:

15 Section 308. Special permits.

16 (a) Issuance and fee.--

17 (1) The licensing authority shall issue a special permit
18 for each raffle in which the licensed eligible organization
19 proposes to award individual prizes in excess of \$3,000.

20 (2) The licensing authority shall issue a special permit
21 for each card game contest that the licensee proposes to
22 conduct.

23 (3) The licensing authority may establish and collect a
24 fee not to exceed \$25 for the issuance of special permits
25 under this section.

26 (b) Permit application.--

27 (1) Each [special permit] application submitted for a
28 special permit under subsection (a)(1) shall specify the
29 location where the actual drawing will be held, the number of
30 chances to be sold, the price per chance and the prize to be

1 awarded.

2 (2) Each application submitted for a special permit
3 under subsection (a) (2) shall specify the location where the
4 card game contest will be conducted, the number of
5 individuals to be admitted for the card game contest and all
6 of the house rules to be used.

7 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.