

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 290 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY WARNER, REESE, DAVANZO, R. BROWN, CIRESI, DIAMOND, GLEIM, HILL-EVANS, JAMES, McNEILL, MILLARD, MIZGORSKI, OWLETT, PISCIOTTANO, ROTHMAN AND STRUZZI, JANUARY 27, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, JANUARY 27, 2021

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 miscellaneous
 9 provisions, providing for games of chance operations during
 10 COVID-19 disaster emergency.

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

13 Section 1. The act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156),
 14 known as the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, is amended
 15 by adding a section to read:

16 Section 3102. Games of chance operations during COVID-19
 17 disaster emergency.

18 (a) Operations.--Notwithstanding the provisions of section
 19 307(b.2), during the COVID-19 disaster emergency, a licensed
 20 eligible organization may:

21 (1) conduct or operate games of chance at the licensed

1 eligible organization's operating site or other authorized
2 premises or location or via a publicly accessible Internet
3 website or social media platform; and

4 (2) accept debit cards, credit cards or other electronic
5 payment methods for playing games of chance on a publicly
6 accessible Internet website or social media platform.

7 (b) Definitions.--As used in this section, the term "COVID-
8 19 disaster emergency" means the proclamation of disaster
9 emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at
10 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), any renewal of the proclamation
11 of disaster emergency or any other proclamation of disaster
12 emergency related to the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19,
13 issued by the Governor in accordance with 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c)
14 (relating to general authority of Governor).

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.