

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 243 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY PITTMAN, BROOKS, BARTOLOTTA, MARTIN, ARGALL,  
 J. WARD, PHILLIPS-HILL, BOSCOLA, DiSANTO, AUMENT, MASTRIANO,  
 MENSCH, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, REGAN, DUSH, FONTANA, LAUGHLIN  
 AND COLLETT, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
 FEBRUARY 22, 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 games of chance,  
 9 providing for games of chance operations during disaster  
 10 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 309. Games of chance operations during disaster  
 17 emergency.

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

1           (1) conduct games of chance through a publicly  
2 accessible Internet website, social media platform or mobile  
3 application; and

4           (2) accept electronic payment via credit card, debit  
5 card, mobile electronic payment application or other  
6 electronic payment methods for playing games of chance under  
7 paragraph (1). The licensed eligible organization shall  
8 verify that the purchaser using an electronic payment method  
9 is:

10           (i) 18 years of age or older; and

11           (ii) a resident of this Commonwealth.

12           (b) Prize disbursement.--A winner of a game of chance  
13 conducted under subsection (a) must claim the prize at the  
14 licensed eligible organization's operating site or other  
15 authorized premises. Prize winnings may not be distributed via  
16 United States mail, electronically or via any other messaging  
17 service. Prior to disbursing a prize, a licensed eligible  
18 organization must verify in person the winner's age and  
19 residency as provided under subsection (a) (2).

20           (c) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "disaster  
21 emergency" means the proclamation of disaster emergency issued  
22 by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644  
23 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster  
24 emergency.

25           Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.