
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 54 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY YUDICHAK, CAPPELLETTI, SCAVELLO, BROWNE, MARTIN,
FONTANA, BREWSTER, COSTA AND STREET, APRIL 9, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 9, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2021 as "Problem Gambling
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

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

9 WHEREAS, The National Council of Problem Gambling (NCPG)
10 reports that 2% to 3% of the United States population, which
11 equates to between 6 million and 9 million Americans, are
12 considered problem gamblers; and

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

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

1 society as a whole; and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, The proliferation of unregulated slot-machine-like
10 devices in nearly every community across this Commonwealth,
11 especially in vulnerable communities, is contributing to
12 gambling addiction; and

13 WHEREAS, Unregulated gambling devices demand increased focus
14 on compulsive and problem gambling awareness and the education
15 of residents of this Commonwealth on gambling addiction as a
16 public health issue, which affects Pennsylvanians of all ages
17 and backgrounds; and

18 WHEREAS, The NCPG is coordinating the annual "Problem
19 Gambling Awareness Month" campaign in March to educate the
20 public about the impact of problem gambling and the availability
21 of treatment options; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2021
23 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Pennsylvania Gaming
26 Control Board to continue its outreach efforts and work with the
27 Pennsylvania gaming industry to develop and implement problem-
28 gambling programs and further promote community-based programs
29 in this Commonwealth; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Department of Health in

1 conjunction with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs,
2 the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and individuals,
3 professionals and organizations dedicated to public awareness
4 and treatment of problem gambling to jointly create, develop and
5 promote public awareness campaigns regarding the recognition and
6 prevention of problem gambling; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize that problem gambling is
8 a public health issue impacting residents in this Commonwealth
9 in a harmful way that needs to be addressed in a reasonable and
10 responsible manner; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all residents of this
12 Commonwealth to learn more about problem gambling and the
13 programs available to help individuals and their families who
14 have been adversely affected by this issue.