



Senate Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development

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Senate Bill 711, Printer's No. 1196

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Sponsor: Senator Earll and Senator Mellow

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 711, Printer's No. 1196 amends Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Part II (Gaming), known as the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act (Gaming Act), by providing for various gaming reforms with regard to the regulation of the Pennsylvania Slot Machine Gaming Industry. This is an omnibus gaming reform bill that embodies numerous reforms, many of which are represented by individual pieces of legislation introduced by various Members of the Senate. A list highlighting major issues and a more detailed list (including a description and section reference) of the specific reforms contained in this reform legislation are attached. **[See Attachments]**

The proposed gaming reforms are intended to further promote the legislative intent espoused in the Gaming Act with regard to the primary objective to protect the public through the regulation and policing of all activities involving gaming and practices that continue to be unlawful. These reforms would also adhere to the General Assembly's intent that the PA Gaming Industry be strictly monitored and enforced as such is necessary to maintain the integrity of the regulatory and legislative oversight of the operation of slot machines in the Commonwealth. Furthermore, these proposed reforms would protect the revenues and economic opportunities the PA Gaming Industry has made possible and would help to ensure the industry continues to remain viable and strong, particularly in these difficult economic times.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

Existing Law

[Gaming Act – 4 Pa.C.S. § 1101 et seq.] - Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Part II (Gaming) provides that the primary objective is to protect the public through the regulation and policing of all activities involving gaming and practices that continue to be unlawful. The Gaming Act specifically authorizes limited gaming by allowing for the installation and operation of slot machines at licensed facilities throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to assist the Commonwealth's horse racing industry with the intent of enhancing live horse racing, breeding programs, and improving the living and working conditions of personnel that work and reside in the stable and backside areas of racetracks. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Gaming Act to provide for property tax relief, wage tax reduction, economic development opportunities, employment, entertainment and the development of the tourism market throughout Pennsylvania.