



Senate Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development

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Senate Resolution 273, Printer's No. 1622

Date: December 3, 2013

Sponsor: Senators Scarnati, Ward and Tomlinson

Resolution Summary

Senate Resolution 273, Printer's No. 1622 directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to study the current condition and future viability of [casino] gaming in this Commonwealth and other related matters.

- Legalized [casino] gaming pursuant to the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act (Gaming Act) [4 Pa.C.S. § 1101 et seq.] has been a huge success.
- 12 casinos have opened in PA since enactment of Gaming Act in 2004.
- Up to 15 casinos provided for in the Gaming Act.
- PA casinos directly employ over 16,000 people and have generated over \$6 billion in gaming tax revenue.
- Gaming [tax] revenue has been used to provide wage and property tax relief, sustain PA's horse racing industry, enhance economic development, aid local governments, police and emergency services and provide funding to the General Fund.
- It is important to preserve and build on these successes and continually work to maintain and improve the PA gaming industry.
- In recent months gaming revenues have leveled off and declined at some PA gaming facilities.
- As new gaming facilities prepare to open up in the next few years, PA may need to consider changes and revisions to the Gaming Act so all existing and new Category 1, 2 and 3 PA casinos may thrive with growing regional competition.
- The introduction and expansion of gaming in the states that border PA have caused the Mid-Atlantic region to become an extremely competitive market.

Thus, the following is resolved:

- Senate direct the LBFC to study the current condition and future viability of gaming and the industry's potential for growth in Pennsylvania.
- LBFC study the state of gaming under the Gaming Act and casino gaming in other states in order to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding regulatory and legislative changes which could be implemented to sustain and maximize gaming revenue and the positive economic impact of PA gaming.
- LBFC analyze and compare PA's tax structure and statutory and regulatory framework with other gaming states.
- LBFC analyze the potential impact of online gaming on gaming industry, including impact it may have on PA's tax revenues and employment at PA casinos.
- LBFC to issue report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than May 1, 2014.