



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 1887 Printer's No. 3421

Prime Sponsor: Representative Ortity
Committee: Community, Economic and Recreational Development

SYNOPSIS:

Amends Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by requiring one compulsive gamblers assistance organization's toll-free problem gambling telephone number (with up to a three (3) year exception for PA casinos and racetracks already using a different toll-free number). It also places the problem gambling program under the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) vs. the PA Department of Health (DOH), including funding for the program. **[Note: HB 1887, PN 3421 was previously reported as committed (6/23/16) by the Committee and received first and second consideration before it was re-committed (6/27/16) to the Committee.]**

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1887, Printer's No. 3421, amends Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in administrative and enforcement, further providing for compulsive and problem gambling program. More specifically Section 1509 (Compulsive and problem gambling program) of Title 4 (Amusements) is amended by requiring one compulsive gamblers assistance organization's toll-free problem gambling telephone number (which is 1-800-GAMBLER, unless unable to adopt said number then it shall maintain another number). Note: PA casinos and racetracks are provided with an exception for up to three (3) years if prior to the effective of this legislation it was utilizing a toll-free telephone number other than the number established by DDAP and placing the administrative and enforcement (including reporting) of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's compulsive and problem gambling program under the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) [vs. the PA Department of Health (DOH) under which DDAP was previously a bureau before being established as a separate PA agency]. An additional effect of this is that funding for the PA compulsive and problem gambling program will now go directly through DDAP, [which historically has gone through DOH and more recently via Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to DDAP].

Effective Date: Shall take effect in 60 days.

BILL HISTORY:

Part II (Gaming), Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, known as the Pennsylvania Horse Race Development and Gaming Act (Gaming Act).

[Note: HB 1887, PN 3421 was previously reported as committed (6/23/16) by the Committee and received first and second consideration before it was re-committed (6/27/16) to the Committee.]

Prepared by: Brehouse 10/19/2016