



# Senate Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development

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Senate Bill 700, Printer's No. 915

Date: June 10, 2015

Sponsor: Senator Ward

{CERD Hearing: Gaming, Internet Gaming & Related Issues}

## Bill Summary

Senate Bill 700, Printer's No. 915 amends Part II (Gaming Act) of Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to gaming, further providing for legislative intent; in Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, further providing for slot machine licenses, for manufacturer licenses, for slot machine testing and certification standards and for license renewals; providing for reinvestment incentives; in table games, further providing for table game device and associated equipment testing and certification standards; and, in administration and enforcement, further providing for investigations and enforcement and for detention. More specifically, this legislation provides as follows:

- {Investment & Reinvestment} - Language is added to section 1102 (relating to legislative intent) by adding a {new} paragraph (3.1) and a {new} section 1333 (relating to reinvestment incentives) is added that respectively reflects Pennsylvania's fundamental interest in the encouragement of continued investment and reinvestment in the PA gaming industry and emphasizes nothing in the Gaming Act shall be construed to preclude a slot machine licensee (PA casino) from qualifying for reinvestment incentives, including tax credits established under the Tax Reform Code of 1971.
- {License & Permit renewal} - Sections 1209 (relating to slot machine license fee), 1317 (relating to supplier licenses), 1317.1 (relating to manufacturer licenses) and 1326 (relating to license renewals) are all amended to reflect a license and permit renewal period of five (5) years (versus the current three (3) year renewal period. Note: PA casinos would continue to be required to provide the PGCB with updated information on an ongoing basis and the PGCB continues to have the authority to review licenses and permits on an ongoing basis as warranted.
- {Testing & Certification} - Language is added section 1320 (relating to slot machine testing and certification standards) and section 13A41 (relating to table game device and associated equipment testing and certification standards) to clarify that the PA gaming lab (PGCB) can utilize testing and certification standards of another jurisdiction where cost savings and efficiencies can be achieved in relation to both slot machines and table games.
  - It further specifies that each licensed manufacturer (in relation to slot machines) is also responsible for any cost associated with any testing not conducted by the PA gaming lab (PGCB).
- {PSP} - Language is added to section 1517(c)(6) (relating to investigations and enforcement – powers and duties of the Pennsylvania State Police) that provides the PA State Police (PSP) have jurisdiction (powers and duties) over criminal matters beyond just the gaming floor of a PA casino and specifies that such includes a licensed facility, licensed race track and surrounding areas, including parking areas.

- Section 1519 (relating to detention) in relation to detention by a peace officer, licensee or licensee's security employee or an agent under contract with the licensee who has probable cause to believe that criminal violation of the Gaming Act has occurred is further clarified/modified to also reference: "or other criminal law of this Commonwealth."

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**Existing Law**

Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Part II (Gaming Act), known as the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act (Gaming Act). [**4 Pa.C.S. § 1101 et seq.**]

Act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971.