

MOTION OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Urging the General Assembly and Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to proceed with the legalization of a limited number of video poker machines at bars, private clubs, taverns and other establishments, provided that such legalization generates revenue both for tuition stabilization and for Counties and municipal governments in which the legalized poker machines are located.

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell has proposed a dramatic increase in state grants for students attending Pennsylvania's core public institutions -- the 14 State System of Higher Education universities and the 14 community colleges; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the long-term affordability of higher education, the Governor's proposal would establish a dedicated revenue stream for tuition assistance by permitting bars, taverns, restaurants and clubs with a state liquor license, to legally operate up to five video poker machines; and

WHEREAS, state police estimate that there are currently 17,000 illegal video poker machines in Pennsylvania, and approximately 10,000 are located in Western Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Revenue Secretary Stephen Stetler explained that license fees and a 50 percent tax on gross sales after payoffs to gamblers would provide \$550 million annually; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of Council that the revenue raised should be shared between the proposed tuition assistance program and with the municipalities that in which the licensed poker machines are located, in order to assist those municipalities in meeting their own budgetary needs; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania would join nine other states that allow video poker;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, that the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Governor are hereby urged to proceed with the legalization of a limited number of video poker machines at bars, private clubs, taverns and other establishments, provided that such legalization generates revenue both for tuition stabilization and for Counties and municipal governments in which the legalized poker machines are located.

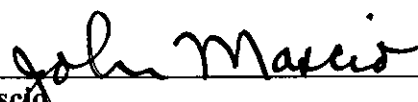
PRIMARY SPONSOR: COUNCIL MEMBER FUTULES

CO-SPONSORS: COUNCIL MEMBERS MACEY, MCCULLOUGH, GASTGEB, & MARTONI

In Council February 17, 2009.

Read and Approved.


Rich Fitzgerald
President of Council

Attest: 
John Mascio
Chief Clerk of Council

Mascio, John R.

From: Mascio, John R.
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 11:07 AM
To: Governor Ed Rendell; Elder Vogel ; J. Barry Stout; Jane Orie; Jay Costa; Jim Ferlo ; John Pippy; Sean Logan; Wayne Fontana ; Anthony DeLuca; Bill Kortz ; Chelsa Wagner; Dan Deasy; Dan Frankel; David Levdansky; Dom Costa; Don Walko; Frank Dermody; Harry Readshaw; Jake Wheatley; Jessie White ; John Maher; John Perzel; Joseph F. Markosek; Joseph Preston, Jr.; Marc Gergely; Mark Mustio; Matthew Smith; Mike Turzai; Nick Kotik; Paul Costa; Randy Vulakovich; Rob Matzie
Subject: Motion of Allegheny County Council - Bill No. 4637-09
Attachments: 4637-09.PDF

At the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council, Council unanimously approved the attached Motion (Bill No. 4637-09) sponsored by Council Members Futules, Macey, McCullough, Gastgeb, and Martoni. As you will read, the Motion urges the General Assembly and Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to proceed with the legalization of a limited number of video poker machines at bars, private clubs, taverns and other establishments, provided that such legalization generates revenue both for tuition stabilization and for Counties and municipal governments in which the legalized poker machines are located.

Your attention to this Motion is requested.

John Mascio
Chief Clerk
Allegheny County Council

2/26/2009