

By Representative Ryan

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the operation of cardrooms;  
3           amending s. 849.086, F.S.; prescribing  
4           licensing requirements when more than one  
5           permitholder uses the same facility; providing  
6           cardroom license fees; revising standards on  
7           when cardrooms may be operated and the amount  
8           of bets allowable for each round, hand, or  
9           game; authorizing facilities to award prizes;  
10          revising the rate of the gross receipts tax on  
11          admissions; revising the amount of cardroom  
12          receipts that must be used to supplement  
13          greyhound and jai alai purses; providing an  
14          effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18           Section 1. Paragraphs (b) and (d) of subsection (5),  
19          subsections (7) and (8), and paragraphs (a) and (d) of  
20          subsection (13) of section 849.086, Florida Statutes, are  
21          amended to read:

22           849.086 Cardrooms authorized.--

23           (5) LICENSE REQUIRED; APPLICATION; FEES.--No person  
24          may operate a cardroom in this state unless such person holds  
25          a valid cardroom license issued pursuant to this section.

26           (b) After the initial cardroom license is granted, the  
27          application for the annual license renewal shall be made in  
28          conjunction with the applicant's annual application for its  
29          pari-mutuel license. In order for a cardroom license to be  
30          renewed the applicant must have requested, as part of its  
31          pari-mutuel annual license application, to conduct at least 90

1 percent of the total number of live performances conducted by  
2 such permitholder during either the state fiscal year in which  
3 its initial cardroom license was issued or the state fiscal  
4 year immediately prior thereto, or, if more than one  
5 permitholder is operating at a facility, each of the  
6 permitholders must have applied for a license to conduct a  
7 full schedule of live racing.

8 (d) The annual cardroom license fee for each facility  
9 shall be \$1,000 for the first table and \$500 for each  
10 additional table to be operated at the cardroom. This license  
11 fee shall be deposited by the division with the Treasurer to  
12 the credit of the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund.

13 (7) CONDITIONS FOR OPERATING A CARDROOM.--

14 (a) A cardroom may only be operated at the location  
15 specified on the cardroom license issued by the division, and  
16 such location may only be the location at which the  
17 pari-mutuel permitholder is authorized to conduct pari-mutuel  
18 wagering activities pursuant to such permitholder's valid  
19 pari-mutuel permit and current license.

20 (b) A cardroom may be operated at the facility only  
21 when the facility is authorized to accept wagers on  
22 pari-mutuel events during its authorized meet. A cardroom may  
23 begin operations within 2 hours prior to the post time of the  
24 first pari-mutuel event ~~conducted live at the pari-mutuel~~  
25 ~~facility~~ on which wagers are accepted by the facility and must  
26 cease operations by 2 a.m. on the following day ~~within 2 hours~~  
27 ~~after the conclusion of the last pari-mutuel event conducted~~  
28 ~~live at the pari-mutuel facility on which wagers are accepted.~~

29 (c) A cardroom operator must at all times employ and  
30 provide a nonplaying dealer for each table on which authorized  
31 card games which traditionally utilize a dealer are conducted

1 at the cardroom. Such dealers may not have any participatory  
2 interest in any game other than the dealing of cards and may  
3 not have an interest in the outcome of the game. The  
4 providing of such dealers by a licensee shall not be construed  
5 as constituting the conducting of a banking game by the  
6 cardroom operator.

7 (d) A facility that operates a cardroom may award  
8 giveaways or prizes to players who hold combinations of cards  
9 specified by the cardroom operator.

10 (e)~~(d)~~ Each cardroom operator shall conspicuously post  
11 upon the premises of the cardroom a notice which contains a  
12 copy of the cardroom license; a list of authorized games  
13 offered by the cardroom; the wagering limits imposed by the  
14 house, if any; any additional house rules regarding operation  
15 of the cardroom or the playing of any game; and all costs to  
16 players to participate, including any rake by the house. In  
17 addition, each cardroom operator shall post at each table a  
18 notice of the minimum and maximum bets authorized at such  
19 table and the fee for participation in the game conducted.

20 (f)~~(e)~~ The cardroom facility shall be subject to  
21 inspection by the division or any law enforcement agency  
22 during the licensee's regular business hours. The inspection  
23 will specifically encompass the permitholder internal control  
24 procedures approved by the division.

25 (g)~~(f)~~ A cardroom operator may refuse entry to or  
26 refuse to allow to play any person who is objectionable,  
27 undesirable, or disruptive, but such refusal shall not be on  
28 the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national  
29 origin, marital status, physical handicap, or age, except as  
30 provided in this section.

31 (8) METHOD OF WAGERS; LIMITATION.--

1 (a) No wagering may be conducted using money or other  
2 negotiable currency. Games may only be played utilizing a  
3 wagering system whereby all players' money is first converted  
4 by the house to tokens or chips which shall be used for  
5 wagering only at that specific cardroom.

6 (b) The cardroom operator may limit the amount wagered  
7 in any game or series of games, but the maximum bet ~~The~~  
8 ~~winnings of any player in a single round, hand, or game~~ may  
9 not exceed ~~\$25~~\$10 in value. There may be no more than three  
10 raises in any round of betting. The fee charged by the  
11 cardroom for participation in the game shall not be included  
12 in the calculation of the limitation on the bet ~~pot~~ size  
13 provided in this paragraph.

14 (13) TAXES AND OTHER PAYMENTS.--

15 (a) Each cardroom operator shall pay a tax to the  
16 state of 2 ~~10~~ percent of the cardroom operation's monthly  
17 gross receipts.

18 (d) Each greyhound and jai alai permitholder that  
19 ~~which~~ operates a cardroom facility shall utilize at least 10 ~~4~~  
20 percent of such permitholder's cardroom monthly gross receipts  
21 to supplement greyhound purses or jai alai prize money,  
22 respectively, during the permitholder's next ensuing  
23 pari-mutuel meet. Each thoroughbred and harness horse racing  
24 permitholder that ~~which~~ operates a cardroom facility shall  
25 utilize at least 50 percent of such permitholder's cardroom  
26 monthly net proceeds as follows: 47 percent to supplement  
27 purses and 3 percent to supplement breeders' awards during the  
28 permitholder's next ensuing racing meet.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.  
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SENATE SUMMARY

Authorizes pari-mutuel facilities to operate cardrooms at any time during which wagers are accepted by those facilities, regardless of whether they are conducting live pari-mutuel events. Decreases the maximum amount a player may bet in any one round, hand, or game from \$10 to \$2, with no more than three raises permitted in any round of betting. Authorizes facilities to award prizes to players. Reduces the gross receipts tax on admissions from 10 percent to 2 percent. Increases, to 10 percent of the monthly gross receipts, the amount of cardroom proceeds which a permitholder must use to supplement greyhound or jai alai purses. Provides license fees and licensing requirements when more than one permitholder uses the same facility.