

By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Geller

315-1360-04

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to cardrooms; amending s.
3 849.086, F.S.; providing a definition;
4 authorizing cardroom operators to host
5 high-stakes poker tournaments at certain
6 pari-mutuel facilities; providing limitations;
7 providing an effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 849.086, Florida
12 Statutes, is amended, present subsections (9) through (17) are
13 redesignated as subsections (10) through (19), respectively,
14 and new subsections (9) and (10) are added to that section, to
15 read:

16 849.086 Cardrooms authorized.--

17 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:

18 (a) "Authorized game" means a game or series of games
19 of poker which are played in a nonbanking manner.

20 (b) "Banking game" means a game in which the house is
21 a participant in the game, taking on players, paying winners,
22 and collecting from losers or in which the cardroom
23 establishes a bank against which participants play.

24 (c) "Cardroom" means a facility where authorized card
25 games are played for money or anything of value and to which
26 the public is invited to participate in such games and charged
27 a fee for participation by the operator of such facility.

28 Authorized games and cardrooms do not constitute casino gaming
29 operations.

30 (d) "Cardroom management company" means any individual
31 not an employee of the cardroom operator, any proprietorship,

1 partnership, corporation, or other entity that enters into an
2 agreement with a cardroom operator to manage, operate, or
3 otherwise control the daily operation of a cardroom.

4 (e) "Cardroom distributor" means any business that
5 distributes cardroom paraphernalia such as card tables,
6 betting chips, chip holders, drop boxes, banking supplies,
7 playing cards, card shufflers, and other associated equipment
8 to authorized cardrooms.

9 (f) "Cardroom operator" means a licensed pari-mutuel
10 permitholder which holds a valid permit and license issued by
11 the division pursuant to chapter 550 and which also holds a
12 valid cardroom license issued by the division pursuant to this
13 section which authorizes such person to operate a cardroom and
14 to conduct authorized games in such cardroom.

15 (g) "Division" means the Division of Pari-mutuel
16 Wagering of the Department of Business and Professional
17 Regulation.

18 (h) "Dominoes" means flat rectangular blocks the faces
19 of which are divided into two equal parts that are blank or
20 include from one to six dots arranged in a pattern.

21 (i) "High stakes dominoes" means a game of dominoes
22 played with a set of 28 dominoes which is played without
23 limits on the amount wagered in any game or series of games
24 and without limits on the rounds of betting.

25 (j)~~(h)~~ "Gross receipts" means the total amount of
26 money received by a cardroom from any person for participation
27 in authorized games.

28 (k) "High stakes poker" means a game of poker without
29 limits on the amount wagered in any game or series of games
30 and without limits on the rounds of betting established in
31 this section.

1 ~~(l)(i)~~ "House" means the cardroom operator and all
2 employees of the cardroom operator.

3 ~~(m)(j)~~ "Net proceeds" means the total amount of gross
4 receipts received by a cardroom operator from cardroom
5 operations less direct operating expenses related to cardroom
6 operations, including labor costs, admission taxes only if a
7 separate admission fee is charged for entry to the cardroom
8 facility, gross receipts taxes imposed on cardroom operators
9 by this section, the annual cardroom license fees imposed by
10 this section on each table operated at a cardroom, and
11 reasonable promotional costs excluding officer and director
12 compensation, interest on capital debt, legal fees, real
13 estate taxes, bad debts, contributions or donations, or
14 overhead and depreciation expenses not directly related to the
15 operation of the cardrooms.

16 ~~(n)(k)~~ "Rake" means a set fee or percentage of the pot
17 assessed by a cardroom operator for providing the services of
18 a dealer, table, or location for playing the authorized game.

19 (9) HIGH STAKES POKER TOURNAMENTS.--A cardroom
20 operator may host a high-stakes poker tournament twice a year
21 for 1 week at a pari-mutuel facility authorized to operate
22 cardrooms, during the hours the pari-mutuel facility is open
23 to conduct business. Such tournament may be conducted only
24 once in any 6-month period.

25 (10) HIGH STAKES DOMINOES TOURNAMENTS.--A cardroom
26 operator may host a high stakes dominoes tournament twice a
27 year for 1 week at a pari-mutual facility authorized to
28 operate cardrooms, during the hours the pari-mutuel facility
29 is open to conduct business. Such tournament may be conducted
30 only once in any 6-month period.

31 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 1086

The committee substitute adds the term "dominoes" and "high stakes dominoes" to the definition section for cardrooms in s. 849.086, F.S. It provides for a high stakes dominoes tournament twice a year for 1 week at pari-mutuel facilities authorized to operate cardrooms with tournaments occurring only once in any six month period.