

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to cardrooms; amending s. 849.086, F.S.;
 3 defining the term "tournament"; revising the time periods
 4 a cardroom may operate; authorizing a cardroom operator to
 5 give certain awards under certain circumstances; revising
 6 bet limit; authorizing certain games with a buy-in limit
 7 to be conducted without a bet limit; providing
 8 requirements for conducting a tournament; defining the
 9 term "gross receipts" for purposes of tournaments;
 10 providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Subsections (7) and (8) of section 849.086,
 15 Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (1) is added to
 16 subsection (2) of that section, to read:

17 849.086 Cardrooms authorized.--

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

19 (1) "Tournament" means a series of games with more than
 20 one betting round involving one or more tables, where the
 21 winners or others receive a prize or cash award.

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

23 (a) A cardroom may be operated only at the location
 24 specified on the cardroom license issued by the division, and
 25 such location may only be the location at which the pari-mutuel
 26 permitholder is authorized to conduct pari-mutuel wagering
 27 activities pursuant to such permitholder's valid pari-mutuel
 28 permit or as otherwise authorized by law.

29 (b) Any horserace, greyhound race, or jai alai
30 permitholder licensed under this section may operate a cardroom
31 at the pari-mutuel facility on any day for a cumulative amount
32 of 12 hours if the permitholder meets the requirements under
33 paragraph (5) (b). ~~A cardroom may be operated at the facility~~
34 ~~only when the facility is authorized to accept wagers on pari-~~
35 ~~mutuel events during its authorized meet. A cardroom may operate~~
36 ~~between the hours of 12 noon and 12 midnight on any day a pari-~~
37 ~~mutuel event is conducted live as a part of its authorized meet.~~
38 ~~However, a permitholder who holds a valid cardroom license may~~
39 ~~operate a cardroom between the hours of 12 noon and 12 midnight~~
40 ~~on any day that live racing of the same class of permit is~~
41 ~~occurring within 35 miles of its facility if no other holder of~~
42 ~~that same class of permit within 35 miles is operating a~~
43 ~~cardroom at such time and if all holders of the same class of~~
44 ~~permit within the 35-mile area have given their permission in~~
45 ~~writing to the permitholder to operate the cardroom during the~~
46 ~~designated period. Application to operate a cardroom under this~~
47 ~~paragraph must be made to the division as part of the annual~~
48 ~~license application.~~

49 (c) A cardroom operator must at all times employ and
50 provide a nonplaying dealer for each table on which authorized
51 card games which traditionally utilize a dealer are conducted at
52 the cardroom. Such dealers may not have any participatory
53 interest in any game other than the dealing of cards and may not
54 have an interest in the outcome of the game. The providing of
55 such dealers by a licensee shall not be construed as
56 constituting the conducting of a banking game by the cardroom

57 operator.

58 (d) A cardroom operator may award giveaways, jackpots, and
59 prizes to a player or players who hold certain combinations of
60 cards as specified by the cardroom operator.

61 (e)~~(d)~~ Each cardroom operator shall conspicuously post
62 upon the premises of the cardroom a notice which contains a copy
63 of the cardroom license; a list of authorized games offered by
64 the cardroom; the wagering limits imposed by the house, if any;
65 any additional house rules regarding operation of the cardroom
66 or the playing of any game; and all costs to players to
67 participate, including any rake by the house. In addition, each
68 cardroom operator shall post at each table a notice of the
69 minimum and maximum bets authorized at such table and the fee
70 for participation in the game conducted.

71 (f)~~(e)~~ The cardroom facility shall be subject to
72 inspection by the division or any law enforcement agency during
73 the licensee's regular business hours. The inspection will
74 specifically encompass the permitholder internal control
75 procedures approved by the division.

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

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

83 (a) No wagering may be conducted using money or other
84 negotiable currency. Games may only be played utilizing a

85 | wagering system whereby all players' money is first converted by
86 | the house to tokens or chips which shall be used for wagering
87 | only at that specific cardroom.

88 | (b) The cardroom operator may limit the amount wagered in
89 | any game or series of games, but the maximum bet may not exceed
90 | \$5 ~~\$2~~ in value. There may not be more than three raises in any
91 | round of betting. The fee charged by the cardroom for
92 | participation in the game shall not be included in the
93 | calculation of the limitation on the bet amount provided in this
94 | paragraph. However, a cardroom operator may conduct games of
95 | Texas Hold'em without a betting limit provided the maximum
96 | required player buy-in does not exceed \$100.

97 | (c) A tournament shall consist of a series of games. The
98 | entry fee for a tournament, including any rebuys, may not exceed
99 | the maximum amount that could be wagered by a participant in 10
100 | like-kind, nontournament games under paragraph (b). Tournaments
101 | must be played only with tournament chips that are provided to
102 | all participants in exchange for an entry fee and any subsequent
103 | rebuys. All players must receive an equal number of tournament
104 | chips for their entry fee. Tournament chips have no cash value
105 | and represent tournament points only. There is no limitation on
106 | the number of tournament chips that may be used for a bet except
107 | as otherwise determined by the cardroom operator. Tournament
108 | chips may never be redeemed for cash or for any other thing of
109 | value. The distribution of prizes and cash awards is determined
110 | by the cardroom operator before entry fees are accepted.

111 | (d) For purposes of tournament play only, the term "gross
112 | receipts" for a tournament means the total amount received by

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113 the cardroom operator for all entry fees, player rebuys, and
114 fees for participation in the tournament less the total amount
115 paid to the winners or others as prizes.

116 Section 2. For fiscal year 2007-2008, four full-time
117 equivalent positions and 138,949 in associated salary rate are
118 authorized, and the sums of \$230,722 in recurring funds and
119 \$48,411 in nonrecurring funds from the Pari-mutuel Wagering
120 Trust Fund of the Department of Business and Professional
121 Regulation are appropriated for the purpose of carrying out
122 activities related to this act.

123 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.