

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; revising license fees; authorizing
 5 a cardroom operator to give certain awards under certain
 6 circumstances; revising bet limit; authorizing certain
 7 games with a buy-in limit to be conducted without a bet
 8 limit; providing requirements for conducting a tournament;
 9 defining the term "gross receipts" for purposes of
 10 tournaments; providing that the city or county granting
 11 approval of an initial cardroom license is to receive
 12 funds from the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund; requiring
 13 approval of a cardroom by vote of the governing body of
 14 either a municipality or county depending upon the
 15 location of the pari-mutuel facility; providing an
 16 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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 20 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5), subsections
 21 (7) and (8), paragraph (h) of subsection (13), and subsection
 22 (16) of section 849.086, Florida Statutes, are amended, and
 23 paragraph (1) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to
 24 read:

25 849.086 Cardrooms authorized.--

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

27 (1) "Tournament" means a series of games with more than
 28 one betting round involving one or more tables, where the

29 winners or others receive a prize or cash award.

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

33 (d) The annual cardroom license fee for each facility
 34 shall be \$1,000 for ~~the first table and \$500 for each additional~~
 35 ~~table to be operated at the cardroom.~~ The ~~This~~ license fee shall
 36 be deposited by the division with the Chief Financial Officer to
 37 the credit of the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund.

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

39 (a) A cardroom may be operated only at the location
 40 specified on the cardroom license issued by the division, and
 41 such location may only be the location at which the pari-mutuel
 42 permitholder is authorized to conduct pari-mutuel wagering
 43 activities pursuant to such permitholder's valid pari-mutuel
 44 permit or as otherwise authorized by law.

45 (b) Any horserace, greyhound race, or jai alai
 46 permitholder licensed under this section may operate a cardroom
 47 at the pari-mutuel facility on any day for a cumulative amount
 48 of 12 hours if the permitholder meets the requirements under
 49 paragraph (5) (b). ~~A cardroom may be operated at the facility~~
 50 ~~only when the facility is authorized to accept wagers on pari-~~
 51 ~~mutuel events during its authorized meet. A cardroom may operate~~
 52 ~~between the hours of 12 noon and 12 midnight on any day a pari-~~
 53 ~~mutuel event is conducted live as a part of its authorized meet.~~
 54 ~~However, a permitholder who holds a valid cardroom license may~~
 55 ~~operate a cardroom between the hours of 12 noon and 12 midnight~~
 56 ~~on any day that live racing of the same class of permit is~~

57 ~~occurring within 35 miles of its facility if no other holder of~~
58 ~~that same class of permit within 35 miles is operating a~~
59 ~~cardroom at such time and if all holders of the same class of~~
60 ~~permit within the 35 mile area have given their permission in~~
61 ~~writing to the permitholder to operate the cardroom during the~~
62 ~~designated period.~~ Application to operate a cardroom under this
63 paragraph must be made to the division as part of the annual
64 license application.

65 (c) A cardroom operator must at all times employ and
66 provide a nonplaying dealer for each table on which authorized
67 card games which traditionally utilize a dealer are conducted at
68 the cardroom. Such dealers may not have any participatory
69 interest in any game other than the dealing of cards and may not
70 have an interest in the outcome of the game. The providing of
71 such dealers by a licensee shall not be construed as
72 constituting the conducting of a banking game by the cardroom
73 operator.

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

77 (e) ~~(d)~~ Each cardroom operator shall conspicuously post
78 upon the premises of the cardroom a notice which contains a copy
79 of the cardroom license; a list of authorized games offered by
80 the cardroom; the wagering limits imposed by the house, if any;
81 any additional house rules regarding operation of the cardroom
82 or the playing of any game; and all costs to players to
83 participate, including any rake by the house. In addition, each
84 cardroom operator shall post at each table a notice of the

85 minimum and maximum bets authorized at such table and the fee
86 for participation in the game conducted.

87 ~~(f)(e)~~ The cardroom facility shall be subject to
88 inspection by the division or any law enforcement agency during
89 the licensee's regular business hours. The inspection will
90 specifically encompass the permitholder internal control
91 procedures approved by the division.

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

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

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

104 (b) The cardroom operator may limit the amount wagered in
105 any game or series of games, but the maximum bet may not exceed
106 \$5 ~~\$2~~ in value. There may not be more than three raises in any
107 round of betting. The fee charged by the cardroom for
108 participation in the game shall not be included in the
109 calculation of the limitation on the bet amount provided in this
110 paragraph. However, a cardroom operator may conduct games of
111 Texas Hold'em without a betting limit provided the maximum
112 required player buy-in does not exceed \$100.

113 (c) A tournament shall consist of a series of games. The
 114 entry fee for a tournament, including any rebuys, may not exceed
 115 the maximum amount that could be wagered by a participant in 10
 116 like-kind, nontournament games under paragraph (b). Tournaments
 117 must be played only with tournament chips that are provided to
 118 all participants in exchange for an entry fee and any subsequent
 119 rebuys. All players must receive an equal number of tournament
 120 chips for their entry fee. Tournament chips have no cash value
 121 and represent tournament points only. There is no limitation on
 122 the number of tournament chips that may be used for a bet except
 123 as otherwise determined by the cardroom operator. Tournament
 124 chips may never be redeemed for cash or for any other thing of
 125 value. The distribution of prizes and cash awards is determined
 126 by the cardroom operator before entry fees are accepted.

127 (d) For purposes of tournament play only, the term "gross
 128 receipts" for a tournament means the total amount received by
 129 the cardroom operator for all entry fees, player rebuys, and
 130 fees for participation in the tournament less the total amount
 131 paid to the winners or others as prizes.

132 (13) TAXES AND OTHER PAYMENTS.--

133 (h) One-quarter of the moneys deposited into the Pari-
 134 mutuel Wagering Trust Fund pursuant to paragraph (g) shall, by
 135 October 1 of each year, be distributed to the local government
 136 that approved the cardroom under subsection (16) ~~counties in~~
 137 ~~which the cardrooms are located~~; however, if two or more pari-
 138 mutuel racetracks are located within the same incorporated
 139 municipality, the cardroom funds shall be distributed to the
 140 municipality. If a pari-mutuel facility is situated in such a

141 manner that it is located in more than one county, the site of
 142 the cardroom facility shall determine the location for purposes
 143 of disbursement of tax revenues under this paragraph. The
 144 division shall, by September 1 of each year, determine: the
 145 amount of taxes deposited into the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust
 146 Fund pursuant to this section from each cardroom licensee; the
 147 location by county of each cardroom; whether the cardroom is
 148 located in the unincorporated area of the county or within an
 149 incorporated municipality; and, the total amount to be
 150 distributed to each eligible county and municipality.

151 (16) LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNTY COMMISSION APPROVAL.--The
 152 Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering shall not issue any initial
 153 license under this section except upon proof in such form as the
 154 division may prescribe that the local government where the
 155 applicant for such license desires to conduct cardroom gaming
 156 has voted to approve such activity by a majority vote of the
 157 governing body of the municipality or the governing body of the
 158 county if the facility is not located in a municipality a
 159 ~~majority of the county commissioners in the county where the~~
 160 ~~applicant for such license desires to conduct cardroom gaming~~
 161 ~~has voted to approve such activity within the county.~~

162 Section 2. For fiscal year 2007-2008, four full-time
 163 equivalent positions and 138,949 in associated salary rate are
 164 authorized, and the sums of \$230,722 in recurring funds and
 165 \$48,411 in nonrecurring funds from the Pari-mutuel Wagering
 166 Trust Fund of the Department of Business and Professional
 167 Regulation are appropriated for the purpose of carrying out
 168 activities related to this act.

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