

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to cardrooms; amending s. 849.086, F.S.;
 3 defining the term "high-stakes poker"; authorizing the
 4 Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering of the Department of
 5 Business and Professional Regulation to adopt rules for
 6 the operation of high-stakes poker tournaments;
 7 authorizing a cardroom operator to host a televised high-
 8 stakes poker tournament at certain pari-mutuel facilities;
 9 providing conditions; defining the term "gross receipts"
 10 for such tournaments; correcting a cross-reference;
 11 providing an effective date.

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

14
 15 Section 1. Paragraphs (j) through (m) of subsection (2) of
 16 section 849.086, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 17 paragraphs (k) through (n), respectively, and a new paragraph
 18 (j) is added to that subsection, paragraph (a) of subsection (4)
 19 is amended, subsections (9) through (17) are redesignated as
 20 subsections (10) through (18), respectively, a new subsection
 21 (9) is added to that section, and paragraph (h) of present
 22 subsection (13) of that section is amended, to read:

23 849.086 Cardrooms authorized.--
 24 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:
 25 (j) "High-stakes poker" means a game of poker which is
 26 played without limits on the amount wagered in any game or
 27 series of games or without limits on the rounds of betting
 28 established in this section.

29 (4) AUTHORITY OF DIVISION.--The Division of Pari-mutuel
30 Wagering of the Department of Business and Professional
31 Regulation shall administer this section and regulate the
32 operation of cardrooms under this section and the rules adopted
33 pursuant thereto, and is hereby authorized to:

34 (a)1. Adopt rules, including, but not limited to: the
35 issuance of cardroom and employee licenses for cardroom
36 operations; the operation of a cardroom; recordkeeping and
37 reporting requirements; and the collection of all fees and taxes
38 imposed by this section.

39 2. Adopt rules for the operation of high-stakes poker
40 tournaments, including, but not limited to, maximum buy-in
41 amounts, number of players, amount of betting units, and payout
42 scales.

43 (9) HIGH-STAKES POKER TOURNAMENTS.--

44 (a) A cardroom operator may host a televised high-stakes
45 poker tournament twice each year for 1 week at a pari-mutuel
46 facility that is authorized to operate cardrooms during the
47 hours that the pari-mutuel facility is open to conduct business.
48 Such a tournament may be conducted only once in any 6-month
49 period.

50 (b) A high-stakes poker tournament shall consist of a
51 series of games played at multiple tables. Tournaments shall be
52 played only with tournament chips that shall be provided to all
53 participants in exchange for an entry fee and any subsequent
54 rebuis. All players shall receive an equal number of tournament
55 chips for their entry fee. Tournament chips shall have no cash
56 value and shall represent tournament points only. There shall be

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57 no limitation on the number of tournament chips that can be used
58 for a bet except as determined by the cardroom operator. At no
59 time may tournament chips be redeemed for cash or any other
60 thing of value. The entry fee for a tournament shall be decided
61 by the cardroom operator. The distribution of prizes and cash
62 awards shall be determined by the cardroom operator before entry
63 fees are accepted. For purposes of tournament play only, "gross
64 receipts" for the tournament shall mean the total amount
65 received by the cardroom operator for all entry fees, player
66 rebuys, and fees for participation in the tournament, less the
67 total amount paid to the winners or others as prizes. The total
68 number of players that may enter the tournament shall be decided
69 by the cardroom operator.

70 (14)~~(13)~~ TAXES AND OTHER PAYMENTS.--

71 (h) One-quarter of the moneys deposited into the Pari-
72 mutuel Wagering Trust Fund pursuant to paragraph (g) shall, by
73 October 1 of each year, be distributed to the local government
74 that approved the cardroom under subsection (17) ~~(16)~~; however,
75 if two or more pari-mutuel racetracks are located within the
76 same incorporated municipality, the cardroom funds shall be
77 distributed to the municipality. If a pari-mutuel facility is
78 situated in such a manner that it is located in more than one
79 county, the site of the cardroom facility shall determine the
80 location for purposes of disbursement of tax revenues under this
81 paragraph. The division shall, by September 1 of each year,
82 determine: the amount of taxes deposited into the Pari-mutuel
83 Wagering Trust Fund pursuant to this section from each cardroom
84 licensee; the location by county of each cardroom; whether the

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85 | cardroom is located in the unincorporated area of the county or
86 | within an incorporated municipality; and, the total amount to be
87 | distributed to each eligible county and municipality.

88 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.