

HB 707

2012

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Palm Beach County; providing
3 legislative findings and intent; authorizing the
4 Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering of the Department of
5 Business and Professional Regulation to issue a slot
6 machine gaming license to any qualified pari-mutuel
7 facility located in Palm Beach County; providing that
8 such license may not authorize slot machine gaming
9 before a certain date; providing for payment of the
10 license fee; providing for payment of taxes and
11 regulatory fees; providing for conduct of slot machine
12 gaming operations within the designated slot machine
13 gaming area of the eligible facility; providing a
14 limitation upon the number of machines; providing for
15 renewal of the license; providing for transfer of the
16 license; providing a condition of licensure; requiring
17 a referendum; providing effective dates.

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

20
21 Section 1. Slot machine gaming.—

22 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to stimulate the
23 state, regional, and local economies by authorizing slot machine
24 gaming at licensed pari-mutuel facilities in Palm Beach County.
25 Slot machine gaming is currently authorized at eight pari-mutuel
26 facilities within Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, which are
27 easily accessible to residents of Palm Beach County. The
28 Legislature finds that slot machine gaming at licensed pari-

HB 707

2012

29 mutuel facilities significantly benefits state, regional, and
30 local economies through creation of thousands of direct and
31 indirect jobs, infrastructure improvements, increases in local
32 property values and ad valorem taxes, and generation of
33 significant tax revenue for the Educational Enhancement Trust
34 Fund of the Department of Education. The Legislature recognizes
35 that the pari-mutuel industry has played an important role in
36 the economic development of this state and region, it is a vital
37 part of the economy, and many individuals and businesses provide
38 services to the pari-mutuel industry and rely upon the continued
39 vigor of the industry to survive. The Legislature also
40 recognizes that voters in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties
41 approved slot machine gaming in their respective counties and
42 the voters in Palm Beach County deserve the opportunity to
43 decide whether to approve slot machine gaming within their
44 county.

45 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
46 Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering of the Department of Business
47 and Professional Regulation is authorized, upon application and
48 payment of the applicable fees, to issue a license to conduct
49 slot machine gaming in accordance with chapter 551, Florida
50 Statutes, to any pari-mutuel permitholder located within Palm
51 Beach County that conducted live racing for 2 consecutive
52 calendar years immediately before its application for the slot
53 machine license, for use by the permitholder within its
54 designated slot machine gaming area. The permitholder shall pay
55 the applicable license fee and tax on slot machine revenues
56 under section 551.106, Florida Statutes, and the compulsive or

57 addictive gaming prevention program fee under section 551.118,
58 Florida Statutes. A license issued under this subsection may not
59 authorize slot machine gaming before July 7, 2015.

60 (3) Upon receiving a license to conduct slot machine
61 gaming operations, the permitholder may make available for play
62 within its property up to the maximum number of machines
63 authorized by chapter 551, Florida Statutes. The slot machine
64 gaming area may be open on the days and hours of operation
65 authorized by chapter 551, Florida Statutes. The license to
66 conduct slot machine gaming operations may be renewed by the
67 permitholder pursuant to chapter 551, Florida Statutes. The
68 license to conduct slot machine gaming operations may be
69 transferred to any entity owning the facility and qualified
70 pursuant to chapters 550 and 551, Florida Statutes.

71 (4) As a condition of licensure, the permitholder shall
72 remain in compliance with chapters 550 and 551, Florida
73 Statutes, including the payment of applicable taxes for deposit
74 in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund of the Department of
75 Education.

76 Section 2. This act shall take effect only upon its
77 approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of Palm
78 Beach County voting in a referendum to be held by the Board of
79 County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, in accordance with
80 the provisions of law relating to elections currently in force
81 in Palm Beach County, except that this section shall take effect
82 upon becoming a law.