

ASSEMBLY, No. 4365

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 2, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes poker to be played in poker rooms at horse racetracks in this State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT authorizing poker to be played in poker rooms at horse
2 racetracks in this State and supplementing P.L.1940, c.17 (C.5:5-
3 22 et seq.).

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. The Legislature finds and declares that the card game
9 “poker” is a game of skill and bluff and, therefore, is not a form of
10 gambling that is restricted by the provisions of the New Jersey
11 Constitution.

12 b. As used in this section, “poker” means a card game,
13 including draw and stud poker, played by two or more players in
14 which bets are made on the hands dealt with the highest-ranking
15 hand that contains the most valuable combinations of sequences or
16 sets of cards winning the pool; and

17 “poker room” means a room at a running or harness horse
18 racetrack in this State in which poker is played.

19 c. The holder of a permit to conduct a horse race meeting may
20 establish a poker room at a running or harness horse racetrack in
21 which the game of poker is conducted with a portion of amounts
22 wagered retained by the permit holder.

23 d. A poker player shall be at least 21 years of age.

24 e. The Division of Gaming Enforcement shall have jurisdiction
25 over the conduct of poker played in a poker room at a racetrack in
26 this State. The division shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant
27 to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
28 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that: establish the rules of the game;
29 provide for the licensing of a permit holder and its employees who
30 conduct poker; and establish standards for the size and arrangement
31 of a poker room. The division shall approve the amount that a
32 permit holder may retain as compensation from the conduct of
33 poker. The New Jersey Racing Commission shall have no
34 jurisdiction over poker conducted pursuant to this section.

35 f. Poker, as conducted and played in a poker room at a
36 racetrack in this State, pursuant to this section, shall not constitute a
37 violation of any criminal law of this State that addresses gambling.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill authorizes poker to be played in poker rooms at horse
45 racetracks in this State. The bill states that the Legislature finds
46 and declares that the card game poker is a game of bluff and skill
47 and is not restricted by the gambling provisions of the State
48 Constitution. Accordingly, poker as conducted under the bill will

1 not violate any criminal law of this State. The Division of Gaming
2 Enforcement will have jurisdiction over poker at racetracks and will
3 promulgate rules and regulations establishing the rules of the game,
4 providing for the licensing of racetrack permit holders to conduct
5 poker, and establishing standards for the size and arrangement of
6 poker rooms. The division will also approve the amount that a
7 permit holder may retain as compensation from the conduct of
8 poker. The New Jersey Racing Commission will have no
9 jurisdiction over poker at racetracks. Poker players must be at least
10 21 years of age.