

2015 -- H 5244

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- GAMBLING AND LOTTERIES

Introduced By: Representatives Amore, Lombardi, O'Brien, McKiernan, and Craven

Date Introduced: January 29, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 11-19-1 and 11-19-19 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-19
2 entitled "Gambling and Lotteries" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-19-1. Forms of gambling prohibited.** -- Every person who shall, directly or
4 indirectly, set up, put forth, carry on, promote, or draw, publicly or privately, any lottery, chance,
5 game, or device of any nature or kind whatsoever, or by whatsoever name it may be called, for
6 the purpose of exposing, setting for sale or disposing of any money, houses, lands, merchandise,
7 or articles of value, or shall sell or expose to sale lottery policies, purporting to be governed by
8 the drawing of any public or private lottery, or shall sign or endorse any book, document, or paper
9 whatsoever, for the purpose of enabling others to sell, or expose to sale, lottery policies, except as
10 authorized in this chapter [inclusive of §§ 11-19-46 and 11-19-47](#) and in title 41 and chapters 61
11 and 61.2 of title 42, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned not exceeding two
12 (2) years or be fined not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

13 **11-19-19. Revocation of license of gambling place.** -- If a person in violation of § 11-
14 19-18 [or 11-19-47](#) is a tavernkeeper, innholder, retailer, or keeper of any other house or place of
15 public resort which is licensed, that license shall in addition be declared null and void by the court
16 in which he or she shall be convicted.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 11-19 of the General Laws entitled "Gambling and Lotteries" is
18 hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

19 **11-19-46. Social gaming permitted.** -- [\(a\) Social gaming defined as a game other than a](#)

1 lottery, between players where gambling is incidental to a bona fide social relationship between
2 participants and where no person other than the players participating in the social game are
3 entitled to receive anything of value and provided that none of the participants are involved with
4 professional gambling shall be permitted under this chapter.

5 (b) No host of a social game under this chapter shall be guilty of promoting a form of
6 illegal gambling when the host, in a private residence, offers gaming allowable under subsection
7 (a) of this section, provided that the participants are invitees of the owner/tenant, and the
8 owner/tenant derives no monetary benefit from and does not intend to derive a profit from aiding
9 or inducing another to gamble by hosting the event.

10 **11-19-47. Places social gambling permitted.** – (a) Notwithstanding any general law to
11 the contrary, it shall not be illegal for any private business, private club or place of public
12 accommodation to allow on its premises social gaming allowed under § 11-19-46. Provided that
13 the owner or operator of the premises derives no monetary benefit from and does not intend to
14 derive a profit from aiding or inducing another to gamble by allowing the gaming to occur on the
15 premises; or

16 (b) The running of "office pools" based on the result or occurrence of a social or sporting
17 event:

18 (1) Provided that no money is withheld from the amount paid by the participants by the
19 operator or the promoter of the pool;

20 (2) That all monies paid by the participants, as an entry fee or otherwise, are paid out to
21 the winner based on the result of the pool;

22 (3) That prior to participation each entrant has an equal chance to win the pool;

23 (4) Participants must be of legal age to gamble as provided for in this title;

24 (5) That holders of liquor licenses who desire to are required to apply for a permit to
25 conduct such activities as part of the liquor license. Pay a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) to the
26 department of business regulation and display the permit prominently along with their liquor
27 license.

28 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, a nonprofit organization may petition
29 the state police to run a pool, in the same manner as proscribed in § 11-19-31, and withhold an
30 amount of the money in the pool for its charitable purposes, as long as the percentage of the
31 money to be withheld from the total amount of the pool does not exceed twenty-five percent
32 (25%) and is clearly spelled out prior to the entrants' participation, no outside agent or
33 professional fundraisers derive a profit from the activity, and that the disbursement of proceeds is
34 limited to the pool winner, de minimis expense incurred in running the pool and the charity itself.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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- 1 This act would permit social gaming at certain locations where gambling is incidental to a
- 2 bona fide friendship and only players of the game would receive anything of value.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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