

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 2**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 14, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman VINCENT PRIETO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman MARLENE CARIDE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

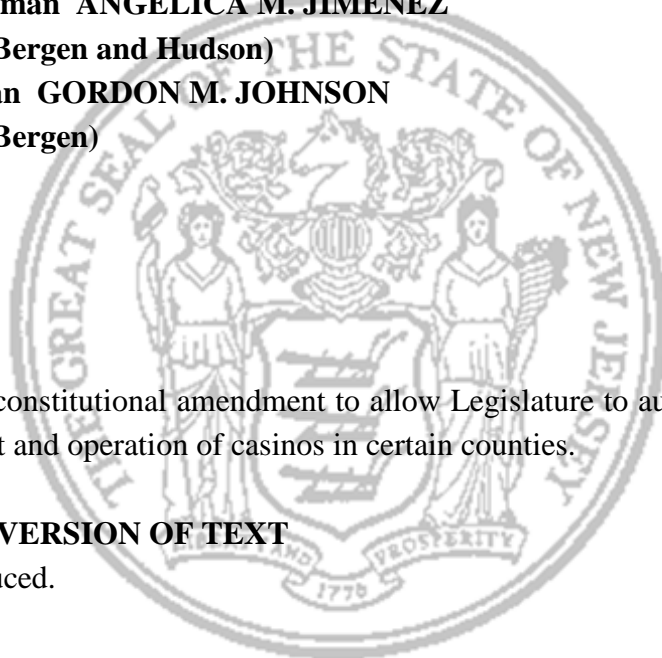
District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Proposes constitutional amendment to allow Legislature to authorize by law establishment and operation of casinos in certain counties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 A **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article IV,
2 Section VII, paragraph 2 of the New Jersey Constitution.

3

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
5 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

6

7 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the
8 State of New Jersey is hereby agreed to:

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10 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

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12 Amend Article IV, Section VII, paragraph 2 to read as follows:

13 2. No gambling of any kind shall be authorized by the
14 Legislature unless the specific kind, restrictions and control thereof
15 have been heretofore submitted to, and authorized by a majority of
16 the votes cast by, the people at a special election or shall hereafter
17 be submitted to, and authorized by a majority of the votes cast
18 thereon by, the legally qualified voters of the State voting at a
19 general election, except that, without any such submission or
20 authorization:

21 A. It shall be lawful for bona fide veterans, charitable,
22 educational, religious or fraternal organizations, civic and service
23 clubs, senior citizen associations or clubs, volunteer fire companies
24 and first-aid or rescue squads to conduct, under such restrictions
25 and control as shall from time to time be prescribed by the
26 Legislature by law, games of chance of, and restricted to, the selling
27 of rights to participate, the awarding of prizes, in the specific kind
28 of game of chance sometimes known as bingo or lotto, played with
29 cards bearing numbers or other designations, 5 or more in one line,
30 the holder covering numbers as objects, similarly numbered, are
31 drawn from a receptacle and the game being won by the person who
32 first covers a previously designated arrangement of numbers on
33 such a card, when the entire net proceeds of such games of chance
34 are to be devoted to educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or
35 public-spirited uses, and in the case of bona fide veterans'
36 organizations and senior citizen associations or clubs to the support
37 of such organizations, in any municipality, in which a majority of
38 the qualified voters, voting thereon, at a general or special election
39 as the submission thereof shall be prescribed by the Legislature by
40 law, shall authorize the conduct of such games of chance therein;

41 B. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law,
42 bona fide veterans, charitable, educational, religious or fraternal
43 organizations, civic and service clubs, senior citizen associations or
44 clubs, volunteer fire companies and first-aid or rescue squads to
45 conduct games of chance of, and restricted to, the selling of rights

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 to participate, and the awarding of prizes, in the specific kinds of
2 games of chance sometimes known as raffles, conducted by the
3 drawing for prizes or by the allotment of prizes by chance, when the
4 entire net proceeds of such games of chance are to be devoted to
5 educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses,
6 and in the case of bona fide veterans' organizations and senior
7 citizen associations or clubs to the support of such organizations, in
8 any municipality, in which such law shall be adopted by a majority
9 of the qualified voters, voting thereon, at a general or special
10 election as the submission thereof shall be prescribed by law and
11 for the Legislature, from time to time, to restrict and control, by
12 law, the conduct of such games of chance;

13 C. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize the conduct
14 of State lotteries restricted to the selling of rights to participate
15 therein and the awarding of prizes by drawings when the entire net
16 proceeds of any such lottery shall be for State institutions and State
17 aid for education; provided, however, that it shall not be competent
18 for the Legislature to borrow, appropriate or use, under any pretense
19 whatsoever, lottery net proceeds for the confinement, housing,
20 supervision or treatment of, or education programs for, adult
21 criminal offenders or juveniles adjudged delinquent or for the
22 construction, staffing, support, maintenance or operation of an adult
23 or juvenile correctional facility or institution;

24 D. (1) It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law
25 the establishment and operation, under regulation and control by the
26 State, of gambling houses or casinos within the boundaries, as
27 heretofore established, of the city of Atlantic City, county of
28 Atlantic, and to license and tax such operations and equipment used
29 in connection therewith. Any law authorizing the establishment and
30 operation of such gambling establishments shall provide for the
31 State revenues derived therefrom to be applied solely for the
32 purpose of providing funding for reductions in property taxes,
33 rental, telephone, gas, electric, and municipal utilities charges of
34 eligible senior citizens and disabled residents of the State, and for
35 additional or expanded health services or benefits or transportation
36 services or benefits to eligible senior citizens and disabled
37 residents, in accordance with such formulae as the Legislature shall
38 by law provide. The type and number of such casinos or gambling
39 houses and of the gambling games which may be conducted in any
40 such establishment shall be determined by or pursuant to the terms
41 of the law authorizing the establishment and operation thereof.

42 (2) It shall also be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law
43 wagering at casinos or gambling houses in Atlantic City on the
44 results of any professional, college, or amateur sport or athletic
45 event, except that wagering shall not be permitted on a college sport
46 or athletic event that takes place in New Jersey or on a sport or
47 athletic event in which any New Jersey college team participates
48 regardless of where the event takes place.

1 (3) (a) It shall also be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by
2 law the establishment and operation, under regulation and control
3 by the State, of no more than two gambling houses or casinos, each
4 one to be located in different counties of this State, and to license
5 and tax such operations and equipment used in connection
6 therewith. The boundaries of each municipality in which each
7 gambling house or casino is located shall be outside a 75 mile
8 radius calculated from the outermost boundary, as heretofore
9 established, of the city of Atlantic City in the county of Atlantic.

10 (b) Any law authorizing the establishment and operation of such
11 gambling establishments shall provide for all the State revenues
12 derived therefrom to be credited to a special New Jersey Investment
13 Fund to be applied solely as follows.

14 Commencing in the first State fiscal year in which State revenues
15 are derived under part (3) of subparagraph D. of this paragraph, and
16 for the subsequent 15 State fiscal years, the revenues in the
17 investment fund shall be applied as follows:

18 (i) 35 percent of the amount credited in each State fiscal year
19 shall be dedicated for the purposes of the recovery, stabilization, or
20 improvement of the city of Atlantic City, and

21 (ii) 63 percent of the amount credited in each State fiscal year
22 shall be dedicated as follows:

23 one half for the purposes specified in part (1) of subparagraph D.
24 of this paragraph; and

25 one half for State aid to each county and municipality in the
26 State for programs and property tax relief for senior citizens and
27 disabled residents.

28 For the next subsequent 10 State fiscal years, the percentage
29 applied for the purposes of (i) above shall decrease by one and one-
30 half percentage points from the prior State fiscal year percentage,
31 and the percentage applied for the purposes of (ii) above shall
32 increase by one and one-half percentage points from the prior State
33 fiscal year percentage.

34 Thereafter, 20 percent of revenues credited to the investment
35 fund in each State fiscal year shall be applied for the purposes of (i)
36 above, and 78 percent of revenues credited in each State fiscal year
37 shall be applied for the purposes of (ii) above.

38 Commencing in the first State fiscal year in which State revenues
39 are derived under part (3) of subparagraph D. of this paragraph and
40 in each State fiscal year thereafter, two percent of the amount
41 credited to the investment fund in each State fiscal year shall be
42 dedicated for the purposes of programs designed to aid the
43 thoroughbred and standardbred horsemen in this State.

44 (c) The eligibility for the initial license to establish and operate
45 one of the gambling houses or casinos under part (3) of
46 subparagraph D. of this paragraph shall be limited to: a holder of a
47 New Jersey casino license that was operating a casino which was
48 conducting gambling on December 11, 2015; or any person licensed
49 as a principal owner of a holder of a New Jersey casino license that

1 was operating a casino which was conducting gambling on
2 December 11, 2015 if that principal owner also holds a valid license
3 to own and operate a casino in another jurisdiction with licensing
4 standards similar to those in New Jersey.

5 (d) The location and type of such casinos or gambling houses,
6 and of the gambling games which may be conducted in any such
7 establishment, shall be determined by or pursuant to the terms of
8 the law authorizing the establishment and operation thereof.

9 E. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law, (1)
10 the simultaneous transmission by picture of running and harness
11 horse races conducted at racetracks located within or outside of this
12 State, or both, to gambling houses or casinos in the city of Atlantic
13 City and (2) the specific kind, restrictions and control of wagering
14 at those gambling establishments on the results of those races. The
15 State's share of revenues derived therefrom shall be applied for
16 services to benefit eligible senior citizens as shall be provided by
17 law; and

18 F. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law, the
19 specific kind, restrictions and control of wagering on the results of
20 live or simulcast running and harness horse races conducted within
21 or outside of this State. The State's share of revenues derived
22 therefrom shall be used for such purposes as shall be provided by
23 law.

24 It shall also be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law
25 wagering at current or former running and harness horse racetracks
26 in this State on the results of any professional, college, or amateur
27 sport or athletic event, except that wagering shall not be permitted
28 on a college sport or athletic event that takes place in New Jersey or
29 on a sport or athletic event in which any New Jersey college team
30 participates regardless of where the event takes place.

31 (cf: Art. IV, Sec. VII, par. 2; amended effective December 5, 2013)

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33 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
34 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it
35 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
36 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
37 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
38 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
39 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three
40 months prior to the general election.

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42 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be
43 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and
44 form:

45 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
46 general election, the following:

47 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used, a
48 legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

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1 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
2 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are
3 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
4 square opposite the word "No."

5 b. In every municipality the following question:
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	YES	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT CASINO GAMBLING IN TWO COUNTIES OTHER THAN ATLANTIC COUNTY</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to permit casino gambling in two additional counties in this State? At present, casino gambling is allowed only in Atlantic City in Atlantic County.</p> <p>Only one casino in each of the two counties would be permitted. Each casino is to be located in a town that is more than 75 miles from Atlantic City. The amendment would limit who may receive a casino license initially.</p>
	NO	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>At present, casino gambling is allowed only in Atlantic City in Atlantic County. This amendment would allow the Legislature to pass laws to permit casino gambling to take place in two other counties in this State.</p> <p>Only one casino in each of the two counties would be permitted. Each casino is to be located in a town that is more than 75 miles from Atlantic City. The amendment would limit who may receive casino licenses to operate one of the casinos initially.</p> <p>The laws passed by the Legislature would provide for the location and type of casinos and the licensing and taxing of the operation and equipment.</p> <p>The amendment provides that the State's share of revenue from the operation of the two casinos would be used for the recovery, stabilization, or improvement of Atlantic City. It would also be used for programs and property tax relief for senior citizens and disabled residents. A lesser portion would be used to aid the thoroughbred and standardbred horsemen in this State.</p>

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STATEMENT

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Under current law, casino gambling is permitted only in Atlantic City in Atlantic County. This constitutional amendment would allow the Legislature to pass laws to permit the establishment and operation, under regulation and control by the State, of casinos in two other counties of this State. No more than two casinos would be permitted and only one casino in each of the two counties would be permitted. Also, each casino is to be located in a municipality that is more than 75 miles from Atlantic City.

Only the following would be eligible for the initial license to operate one of the casinos in another county: a holder of a New Jersey casino license that was operating a casino in which gambling was being conducted on December 11, 2015; or any person licensed as a principal owner of a holder of a New Jersey casino license that was operating a casino in which gambling was being conducted on December 11, 2015 if that principal owner also holds a valid license to own and operate a casino in another jurisdiction with licensing standards similar to those in New Jersey.

The law would determine the location and type of such casinos and of the gambling games which may be conducted. The law would also determine the tax rate to be levied upon the gross gaming revenues derived from the gambling operations.

The amendment specifies that the State revenues derived from the new casinos would be credited to a special New Jersey Investment Fund to be applied solely as follows.

Commencing in the first State fiscal year in which State revenues are derived and for the subsequent 15 State fiscal years,

(i) 35 percent would be dedicated for the purposes of the recovery, stabilization, or improvement of the city of Atlantic City, and

(ii) 63 percent of the amount would be dedicated as follows: one half for the same purposes as Atlantic City casino revenues, that is programs for seniors and disabled persons; and one half for State aid to each county and municipality in the State for programs and property tax relief for senior citizens and disabled residents.

For the next subsequent 10 State fiscal years, the percentage applied for the purposes of (i) above would decrease by one and one-half percentage points from the prior State fiscal year percentage, and the percentage applied for the purposes of (ii) above would increase by one and one-half percentage points from the prior State fiscal year percentage.

Thereafter, 20 percent of revenues remaining in the investment fund in each State fiscal year would be applied for the purposes of (i) above, and 78 percent would be applied for the purposes of (ii) above.

Commencing in the first State fiscal year in which State revenues are derived and in each State fiscal year thereafter, two percent of the amount remaining in the investment fund in each State fiscal

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- 1 year would be dedicated for the purposes of programs designed to
- 2 aid the thoroughbred and standardbred horsemen in this State.