

1 H.128

2 Introduced by Representative Bissonnette of Winooski

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Gambling and lotteries; wagering and gambling; nonprofit
6 organizations; casino events

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase to
8 two events per month the number of casino events that a location owned by a
9 nonprofit organization may be used for, one of which may be hosted by the
10 organization that owns the location and one that may be hosted by another
11 nonprofit organization.

12 An act relating to casino events hosted by nonprofit organizations

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2143 is amended to read:

15 § 2143. NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

16 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, a nonprofit organization,
17 as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 10201(5), may organize and execute, and an
18 individual may participate in lotteries, raffles, or other games of chance for the
19 purpose of raising funds to be used in charitable, religious, educational, and
20 civic undertakings or used by fraternal organizations to provide direct support

1 to charitable, religious, educational, or civic undertakings with which they are
2 affiliated. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, gambling
3 machines and other mechanical devices described in section 2135 of this title
4 shall not be utilized under authority of this section.

5 * * *

6 (d) Casino events shall be limited as follows:

7 (1) A location may be the site of no more than:

8 (A) one casino event in any calendar quarter; or

9 (B) three casino events in any calendar year, as long as there are at
10 least 15 days between each event.

11 (2) A location that is owned by a nonprofit, as defined in 32 V.S.A.
12 § 10201(5), may be the site of no more than ~~three casino events in any calendar~~
13 ~~quarter and no more than 12 casino events in any calendar year~~ two casino
14 events in any calendar month as long as there are at least ~~15~~ 10 days between
15 each event.

16 (3) A nonprofit organization, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 10201(5), may
17 organize and execute no more than:

18 (A) ~~one casino event in any calendar quarter; or~~

19 (B) ~~three casino events in any calendar year, as long as there are at~~
20 ~~least 15 days between each event~~ month.

1 (4) ~~For the purposes of~~ As used in this subsection, “casino event” means
2 an event held during any 24-hour period at which any game of ~~change~~ chance
3 is conducted except those prohibited by ~~13 V.S.A. § subdivision~~ 2135(a)(1) or
4 (2) of this title. A “casino event” shall not include a fair, bazaar, field days,
5 agricultural exposition, or similar event ~~which~~ that utilizes a wheel of fortune,
6 chuck-a-luck, or other such games commonly conducted at such events, or
7 break-open tickets, bingo, a lottery, or a raffle.

8 (e) Games of chance shall be limited as follows:

9 (1) All proceeds raised by a game of chance shall be used exclusively
10 for charitable, religious, educational, and civic undertakings after deducting:

11 (A) reasonable expenses, as determined by fair market value, of
12 purchasing or renting materials and equipment used for the game of chance
13 ~~and~~, of printing advertisements, and of the direct purchase of advertising
14 through established media, such as newspapers, radio, and television; and

15 (B) reasonable expenses, as determined by fair market value, for rent
16 for the premises on which the game of ~~change~~ chance is executed, ~~except that~~
17 ~~rent paid prior to August 1, 1994, pursuant to a written lease in effect on June~~
18 ~~1, 1994, and not subject to cancellation, may be deducted, whether or not such~~
19 ~~rent is reasonable~~, and repairs and upkeep to the premises for nonprofit
20 organizations having ownership in premises; and

1 (C) prizes awarded to players as limited in subdivision (4) of this
2 subsection; and

3 (D) payments to persons as limited in subdivision (2) of this
4 subsection.

5 * * *

6 (6) A nonprofit organization shall not organize and execute games of
7 chance on more than two days in any calendar week, nor shall games of chance
8 be organized and executed at any location on more than two days in any
9 calendar week, except that:

10 (A) Casino events may be conducted only as permitted under
11 subsection (d) of this section.

12 * * *

13 (D) ~~Agricultural fairs qualified to receive a State stipend pursuant to~~
14 ~~31 V.S.A. § 617 may organize and execute games of chance for not more than~~
15 ~~12 consecutive days during the fair once each calendar year. [Repealed.]~~

16 * * *

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.