

H.599

Introduced by Representatives Poirier of Barre City, Batchelor of Derby, Beck
of St. Johnsbury, Beyor of Highgate, Bissonnette of Winooski,
Bock of Chester, Brennan of Colchester, Burditt of West
Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Condon of
Colchester, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly,
Donahue of Northfield, Fagan of Rutland City, Forguites of
Springfield, Frenier of Chelsea, Gage of Rutland City, Helm of
Fair Haven, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex, Joseph of
North Hero, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Keefe of Manchester,
Keenan of St. Albans City, LaClair of Barre Town, Lawrence of
Lyndon, Lewis of Berlin, Macaig of Williston, Martel of
Waterford, Mattos of Milton, McCoy of Poultney, McCullough
of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of Bennington,
Nolan of Morristown, Parent of St. Albans Town, Partridge of
Windham, Pearce of Richford, Savage of Swanton, Shaw of
Pittsford, Smith of Derby, Smith of New Haven, Terenzini of
Rutland Town, Toleno of Brattleboro, Troiano of Stannard, Van
Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Walz of Barre City, Weed of Enosburgh,
and Wright of Burlington

1 Referred to Committee on

2 Date:

3 Subject: Gambling and lotteries; wagering and gambling; nonprofit
4 organizations

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit a
6 nonprofit fraternal organization to organize and execute games of chance that
7 are only open to members, in which all of the proceeds are awarded as prizes;
8 to clarify the definition of “casino event”; and to require the Attorney General
9 to create educational materials regarding gambling activities in which
10 nonprofit organizations are permitted to engage.

11 An act relating to games of chance organized by nonprofit organizations

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

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

14 § 2143. NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

15 (a)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, ~~a~~:

16 (A) A nonprofit organization, as defined in 31 V.S.A. § 1201(5), may
17 organize and execute, and an individual may participate in lotteries, raffles, or
18 other games of chance for the purpose of raising funds to be used in charitable,
19 religious, educational, and civic undertakings or used by fraternal

1 organizations to provide direct support to charitable, religious, educational, or
2 civic undertakings with which they are affiliated.

3 (B) A fraternal organization that is a nonprofit organization, as
4 defined in 31 V.S.A. § 1201(5), may organize and execute, and a member of
5 that organization may participate in lotteries, raffles, or other games of chance
6 in which all of the proceeds are awarded as prizes to the members that
7 participated. An individual who is not a member of the fraternal organization
8 shall not be allowed to participate in a lottery, raffle, or other game of chance
9 organized under this subdivision (B).

10 (2) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, gambling
11 machines and other mechanical devices described in section 2135 of this title
12 shall not be ~~utilized~~ used under authority of this section.

13 * * *

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

15 * * *

16 (4) As used in this subsection, “casino event” means an event held
17 during any 24-hour period at which ~~any game of chance is~~ a card tournament
18 or casino table games, such as baccarat, blackjack, craps, poker, or roulette, or
19 both are conducted except those. Games of chance prohibited by subdivision
20 2135(a)(1) or (2) of this title: shall not be permitted at a “casino event.” A
21 “casino event” shall not include a fair, bazaar, field days, agricultural

1 exposition, or similar event that ~~utilizes~~ uses a wheel of fortune, chuck-a-luck,
2 or other ~~such~~ games commonly conducted at such events, or break-open
3 tickets, bingo, a lottery, or a raffle. “Card tournament” means an event during
4 which participants, as individual players or members of a team, pay a fixed
5 entry fee to play a series of card games, with the tournament winners
6 determined based on the cumulative results of the games and the winners’
7 prizes determined as a portion of the proceeds from the entry fees.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 2. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

10 On or before November 15, 2018, the Attorney General shall:

11 (1) create and make available to nonprofit organizations an educational
12 pamphlet describing the provisions of 13 V.S.A. § 2143, including permitted
13 types of wagering and gambling activities, as well as record keeping and
14 reporting requirements; and

15 (2) update the gambling page on the Attorney General’s website to
16 include the amendments to 13 V.S.A. § 2143 made pursuant to this act and to
17 provide a link to the educational pamphlet created pursuant to subdivision (1)
18 of this section.

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.