

5302--C

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

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AN ACT to amend the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law and the penal law, in relation to allowing certain interactive poker games

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law is
2 amended by adding a new article 14 to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 14

4 INTERACTIVE GAMING

5 SECTION 1400. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

6 1401. DEFINITIONS.

7 1402. AUTHORIZATION.

8 1403. REQUIRED SAFEGUARDS/MINIMUM STANDARDS.

9 1404. SCOPE OF LICENSING REVIEW.

10 1405. STATE TAX.

11 S 1400. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. THE LEGISLATURE HEREBY FINDS
12 AND DECLARES THAT: 1. UNDER THE NEW YORK PENAL LAW A PERSON ENGAGES IN
13 GAMBLING WHEN HE OR SHE STAKES OR RISKS SOMETHING OF VALUE UPON THE
14 OUTCOME OF A CONTEST OF CHANCE OR A FUTURE CONTINGENT EVENT NOT UNDER
15 HIS OR HER CONTROL OR INFLUENCE, UPON AN AGREEMENT OR UNDERSTANDING THAT
16 HE OR SHE WILL RECEIVE SOMETHING OF VALUE IN THE EVENT OF A CERTAIN
17 OUTCOME.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 2. A CONTEST OF CHANCE IS DEFINED AS ANY CONTEST, GAME, GAMING SCHEME
2 OR GAMING DEVICE IN WHICH THE OUTCOME DEPENDS IN A MATERIAL DEGREE UPON
3 AN ELEMENT OF CHANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING THAT SKILL OF THE CONTESTANTS MAY
4 ALSO BE A FACTOR THEREIN. (SUBDIVISION 1 OF SECTION 225.00 OF THE PENAL
5 LAW). THUS, GAMES OF CHANCE MAY INVOLVE SOME SKILL, BUT IN THOSE GAMES
6 THE LEVEL OF SKILL DOES NOT DETERMINE THE OUTCOME REGARDLESS OF THE
7 DEGREE OF SKILL EMPLOYED. SEE PEOPLE V. TURNER, 165 MISC. 2D 222, 224,
8 629 N.Y.S.2D 661, 662 (CRIM. CT. 1995). ON THE OTHER HAND, WHERE A
9 CONTEST PITS THE SKILL LEVELS OF THE PLAYERS AGAINST EACH OTHER, NEW
10 YORK COURTS HAVE FOUND A GAME TO BE ONE OF SKILL RATHER THAN CHANCE. SEE
11 PEOPLE V. HUNT, 162 MISC. 2D 70, 72, 616 N.Y.S.2D 168, 170 (CRIM. CT.
12 1994) ("PLAYED FAIRLY, SKILL RATHER THAN CHANCE IS THE MATERIAL COMPO-
13 NENT OF THREE-CARD MONTE.");

14 3. POKER IN MANY INSTANCES HAS BEEN DEFINED AS A GAME OF SKILL AND A
15 NEW YORK FEDERAL COURT IN U.S. V. DICRISTINA, 886 F. SUPP. 2D 164, 224,
16 ASSESSED THAT UNDER FEDERAL LAW POKER WAS PREDOMINANTLY A GAME OF SKILL;

17 4. NEW YORK COURTS HAVE INTERPRETED NEW YORK LAW TO APPLY A MORE
18 RIGOROUS TEST IN IDENTIFYING A "CONTEST OF CHANCE" THAN IS APPLIED BY
19 MOST STATES IN THIS NATION AND THE COURTS HAVE FOUND THAT WHERE A
20 CONTEST PITS THE SKILL LEVELS OF THE PLAYERS AGAINST EACH OTHER, THOSE
21 GAMES ARE GAMES OF SKILL AND NOT GAMES OF CHANCE. FURTHERMORE, THE
22 COURTS HAVE NOT LIMITED THE LEGISLATURE'S ABILITY TO DETERMINE THAT
23 CERTAIN FORMS OF POKER SHOULD FALL OUTSIDE THE GENERAL DEFINITION OF
24 GAMBLING SINCE THOSE GAMES ARE GAMES OF SKILL;

25 5. TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER INVOLVES TWO CARDS DEALT FACE DOWN TO EACH
26 PLAYER AND THEN FIVE COMMUNITY CARDS PLACED FACE-UP BY THE DEALER, A
27 SERIES OF THREE, THEN TWO ADDITIONAL SINGLE CARDS, WITH PLAYERS DETER-
28 MINING WHETHER TO CHECK, BET, RAISE OR FOLD AFTER EACH DEAL. OMAHA
29 HOLD'EM POKER IS A SIMILAR GAME, IN WHICH EACH PLAYER IS DEALT FOUR
30 CARDS AND MAKES HIS OR HER BEST HAND USING EXACTLY TWO OF THEM, PLUS
31 EXACTLY THREE OF THE FIVE COMMUNITY CARDS. THESE GAMES ARE CONSIDERED TO
32 BE COMPLEX FORMS OF POKER WHICH INVOLVE PLAYER STRATEGY AND
33 DECISION-MAKING AND WHICH PIT THE SKILL LEVELS OF THE PLAYERS AGAINST
34 EACH OTHER. AS GAMES OF SKILL, THESE FORMS OF POKER DO NOT FALL UNDER
35 THE DEFINITION OF GAMBLING AS PROHIBITED BY THE PENAL LAW; AND

36 6. THE LEGISLATURE FURTHER FINDS THAT AS THE INTERNET HAS BECOME AN
37 INTEGRAL PART OF SOCIETY, AND INTERNET POKER A MAJOR FORM OF ENTER-
38 TAINMENT FOR MANY CONSUMERS, ANY INTERACTIVE GAMING ENFORCEMENT AND
39 REGULATORY STRUCTURE MUST BEGIN FROM THE BEDROCK PREMISE THAT PARTIC-
40 IPATION IN A LAWFUL AND LICENSED GAMING INDUSTRY IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT
41 A RIGHT, AND THAT REGULATORY OVERSIGHT IS INTENDED TO SAFEGUARD THE
42 INTEGRITY OF THE GAMES AND PARTICIPANTS AND TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY AND
43 THE PUBLIC TRUST.

44 S 1401. DEFINITIONS. AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS
45 SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

46 1. "AUTHORIZED GAME" MEANS OMAHA HOLD'EM AND TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER, AS
47 WELL AS ANY OTHER POKER GAME THAT THE COMMISSION DETERMINES IS THE MATE-
48 RIAL EQUIVALENT OF EITHER OF THOSE, WHETHER IN A CASH GAME OR TOURNA-
49 MENT.

50 2. "AUTHORIZED PARTICIPANTS" MEANS PERSONS WHO ARE EITHER PHYSICALLY
51 PRESENT IN THIS STATE WHEN PLACING A WAGER OR WHO OTHERWISE ARE PERMIT-
52 TED BY APPLICABLE LAW, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, TO PLACE A
53 WAGER. THE INTERMEDIATE ROUTING OF ELECTRONIC DATA IN CONNECTION WITH
54 INTERACTIVE GAMING SHALL NOT DETERMINE THE LOCATION OR LOCATIONS IN
55 WHICH A WAGER IS INITIATED, RECEIVED OR OTHERWISE MADE.

1 3. "CORE FUNCTION" MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: (A) THE MANAGEMENT,
2 ADMINISTRATION OR CONTROL OF WAGERS ON INTERACTIVE GAMING; (B) THE
3 MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION OR CONTROL OF THE GAMES WITH WHICH THOSE
4 WAGERS ARE ASSOCIATED; OR (C) THE DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE, PROVISION OR
5 OPERATION OF AN INTERACTIVE GAMING PLATFORM.

6 4. "COMMISSION" MEANS THE NEW YORK STATE GAMING COMMISSION.

7 5. "DIVISION" MEANS THE DIVISION OF GAMING, ESTABLISHED UNDER PARA-
8 GRAPH (C) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED THREE OF THIS CHAP-
9 TER.

10 6. "INTERACTIVE GAMING" MEANS THE CONDUCT OF GAMES THROUGH THE USE OF
11 THE INTERNET OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY THAT ALLOWS A PERSON,
12 UTILIZING MONEY, CHECKS, ELECTRONIC CHECKS, ELECTRONIC TRANSFERS OF
13 MONEY, CREDIT CARDS, DEBIT CARDS OR ANY OTHER INSTRUMENTALITY, TO TRANS-
14 MIT TO A COMPUTER INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN THE PLACING OF A WAGER AND
15 CORRESPONDING INFORMATION RELATED TO THE DISPLAY OF THE GAME, GAME
16 OUTCOMES OR OTHER SIMILAR INFORMATION. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE THE
17 CONDUCT OF (A) NON-GAMBLING GAMES THAT DO NOT OTHERWISE REQUIRE A
18 LICENSE UNDER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW; OR (B) GAMES THAT OCCUR ENTIRELY
19 AMONG PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE LOCATED ON A LICENSED CASINO PREMISES. FOR
20 PURPOSES OF THIS PROVISION, "COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY" MEANS ANY METHOD
21 USED AND THE COMPONENTS EMPLOYED BY AN ESTABLISHMENT TO FACILITATE THE
22 TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, TRANSMISSION
23 AND RECEPTION BY SYSTEMS BASED ON WIRE, CABLE, RADIO, MICROWAVE, LIGHT,
24 OPTICS OR COMPUTER DATA NETWORKS, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE
25 INTERNET AND INTRANETS.

26 7. "INTERACTIVE GAMING GROSS REVENUE" MEANS THE TOTAL OF ALL SUMS PAID
27 TO A LICENSEE FROM INTERACTIVE GAMING INVOLVING AUTHORIZED PARTICIPANTS,
28 LESS ONLY THE TOTAL OF ALL SUMS PAID OUT AS WINNINGS TO PATRONS AND
29 PROMOTIONAL GAMING CREDITS; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CASH EQUIVALENT
30 VALUE OF ANY MERCHANDISE OR OTHER NON-CASH THING OF VALUE INCLUDED IN A
31 CONTEST OR TOURNAMENT SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL OF ALL SUMS
32 PAID OUT AS WINNINGS TO PLAYERS FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING INTERACTIVE
33 GAMING GROSS REVENUE.

34 (A) NEITHER AMOUNTS DEPOSITED WITH A LICENSEE FOR PURPOSES OF INTERAC-
35 TIVE GAMING NOR AMOUNTS TAKEN IN FRAUDULENT ACTS PERPETRATED AGAINST A
36 LICENSEE FOR WHICH THE LICENSEE IS NOT REIMBURSED SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO
37 HAVE BEEN "PAID" TO THE LICENSEE FOR PURPOSES OF CALCULATING INTERACTIVE
38 GAMING GROSS REVENUE.

39 (B) "PROMOTIONAL GAMING CREDIT" INCLUDES BONUSES, PROMOTIONS AND ANY
40 AMOUNT RECEIVED BY A LICENSEE FROM A PATRON FOR WHICH THE LICENSEE CAN
41 DEMONSTRATE THAT IT OR ITS AFFILIATE HAS NOT RECEIVED CASH.

42 8. "INTERACTIVE GAMING PLATFORM" MEANS THE COMBINATION OF HARDWARE,
43 SOFTWARE AND DATA NETWORKS USED TO MANAGE, ADMINISTER OR CONTROL WAGERS
44 ON INTERACTIVE GAMING OR THE GAMES WITH WHICH THOSE WAGERS ARE ASSOCI-
45 ATED.

46 9. "INTERNET" MEANS A COMPUTER NETWORK OF INTEROPERABLE
47 PACKET-SWITCHED DATA NETWORKS.

48 10. "LICENSEE" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED BY THE COMMISSION TO
49 OFFER INTERACTIVE GAMING, USING AN INTERACTIVE GAMING PLATFORM TO
50 AUTHORIZED PARTICIPANTS. A LICENSEE MAY UTILIZE MULTIPLE INTERACTIVE
51 GAMING PLATFORMS PROVIDED THAT EACH PLATFORM IS APPROVED BY THE COMMIS-
52 SION.

53 11. "OMAHA HOLD'EM POKER" MEANS THE POKER GAME MARKETING AS OMAHA
54 HOLD'EM POKER OR OMAHA POKER IN WHICH EACH PLAYER IS DEALT FOUR CARDS
55 AND MUST MAKE HIS OR HER BEST HAND USING EXACTLY TWO OF THEM, PLUS
56 EXACTLY THREE OF THE FIVE COMMUNITY CARDS.

1 12. "SIGNIFICANT VENDOR" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO OFFERS OR WHO PROPOSES
2 TO OFFER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES WITH RESPECT TO INTERACTIVE
3 GAMING: (A) A CORE FUNCTION; (B) SALE, LICENSING OR OTHER RECEIPT OF
4 COMPENSATION FOR SELLING OR LICENSING A DATABASE OR CUSTOMER LIST OF
5 INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES SELECTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART
6 BECAUSE THEY PLACED WAGERS OR PARTICIPATED IN GAMBLING GAMES WITH OR
7 THROUGH AN INTERNET WEBSITE OR OPERATOR (OR ANY DERIVATIVE OF SUCH A
8 DATABASE OR CUSTOMER LIST); (C) PROVISION OF ANY TRADEMARK, TRADENAME,
9 SERVICE MARK OR SIMILAR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY UNDER WHICH A LICENSEE OR
10 SIGNIFICANT VENDOR IDENTIFIES INTERACTIVE GAMES TO CUSTOMERS; OR (D)
11 PROVISION OF ANY PRODUCT, SERVICE OR ASSET TO A LICENSEE OR SIGNIFICANT
12 VENDOR IN RETURN FOR A PERCENTAGE OF INTERACTIVE GAMING REVENUE (NOT
13 INCLUDING FEES TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PAYMENT PROVIDERS FOR
14 FACILITATING A DEPOSIT OR WITHDRAWAL BY AN AUTHORIZED PARTICIPANT). THE
15 TERM "SIGNIFICANT VENDOR" SHALL NOT INCLUDE A PROVIDER OF GOODS OR
16 SERVICES TO A LICENSEE THAT ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR USE AND
17 NOT PRINCIPALLY USED IN CONNECTION WITH INTERACTIVE GAMING.

18 13. "TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER" MEANS THE TYPE OF POKER MARKETED AS TEXAS
19 HOLD'EM POKER THAT INVOLVES TWO CARDS BEING DEALT FACE DOWN TO EACH
20 PLAYER AND THEN FIVE COMMUNITY CARDS BEING PLACED FACE-UP BY THE DEALER,
21 A SERIES OF THREE THEN TWO ADDITIONAL SINGLE CARDS, WITH PLAYERS HAVING
22 THE OPTION TO CHECK, BET, RAISE OR FOLD AFTER EACH DEAL.

23 S 1402. AUTHORIZATION. 1. THE COMMISSION SHALL, WITHIN ONE HUNDRED
24 EIGHTY DAYS OF THE DATE THIS ARTICLE BECOMES LAW, PROMULGATE REGULATIONS
25 TO IMPLEMENT INTERACTIVE GAMING IN THIS STATE AND SHALL AUTHORIZE UP TO
26 ELEVEN LICENSES TO OPERATE INTERACTIVE GAMING INVOLVING AUTHORIZED
27 PARTICIPANTS, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE AND OTHER APPLI-
28 CABLE PROVISIONS OF LAW.

29 2. APPLICANTS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A LICENSE PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE
30 SHALL BE THOSE ENTITIES:

31 (A) LICENSED BY THE STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION SIXTEEN HUNDRED SEVEN-
32 TEEN-A OF THE TAX LAW TO OPERATE VIDEO LOTTERY GAMING AND HAS EXPERIENCE
33 IN THE OPERATION OF INTERACTIVE GAMING BY BEING LICENSED IN A STATE WITH
34 COMPARABLE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS OR GUARANTEES ACQUISITION OF ADEQUATE
35 BUSINESS COMPETENCE AND EXPERIENCE IN THE OPERATION OF INTERACTIVE
36 GAMING; OR

37 (B) LICENSED BY THE STATE TO OPERATE A CLASS III GAMING FACILITY
38 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE THIRTEEN OF THIS CHAPTER AND HAS EXPERIENCE IN THE
39 OPERATION OF INTERACTIVE GAMING BY BEING LICENSED IN A STATE WITH COMPA-
40 RABLE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS OR GUARANTEES ACQUISITION OF ADEQUATE BUSI-
41 NESS COMPETENCE AND EXPERIENCE IN THE OPERATION OF INTERACTIVE GAMING.

42 3. THE COMMISSION SHALL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, ISSUE LICENSES TO
43 MULTIPLE APPLICANTS NO SOONER THAN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS AFTER THE
44 PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO ENSURE A ROBUST AND COMPETITIVE
45 MARKET FOR CONSUMERS AND TO PREVENT EARLY LICENSEES FROM GAINING AN
46 UNFAIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE.

47 4. NO PERSON MAY OPERATE, MANAGE OR MAKE AVAILABLE AN INTERACTIVE
48 GAMING PLATFORM OR ACT AS A SIGNIFICANT VENDOR WITH RESPECT TO INTERAC-
49 TIVE GAMING THAT IS OFFERED TO PERSONS LOCATED IN THIS STATE UNLESS
50 LICENSED BY THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE AND ONLY THOSE GAMES
51 AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE PERMITTED.

52 5. LICENSE APPLICANTS MAY FORM A PARTNERSHIP, JOINT VENTURE OR OTHER
53 CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE PURPOSES OF THIS
54 ARTICLE.

55 6. ANY PERSON FOUND SUITABLE BY THE COMMISSION MAY BE ISSUED A LICENSE
56 AS AN OPERATOR OR SIGNIFICANT VENDOR PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE. IN DETER-

MINING SUITABILITY, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER THOSE FACTORS IT DEEMS RELEVANT IN ITS DISCRETION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

(A) WHETHER THE APPLICANT IS A PERSON OF GOOD CHARACTER, HONESTY AND INTEGRITY;

(B) WHETHER THE APPLICANT IS PERSON WHOSE PRIOR ACTIVITIES, CRIMINAL RECORD, IF ANY, REPUTATION, HABITS AND ASSOCIATIONS DO NOT:

(I) POSE A THREAT TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST OR TO THE EFFECTIVE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF INTERACTIVE GAMING; OR

(II) CREATE OR ENHANCE THE DANGERS OF UNSUITABLE, UNFAIR OR ILLEGAL PRACTICES, METHODS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE CONDUCT OF INTERACTIVE GAMING OR IN THE CARRYING ON OF THE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS INCIDENTAL TO SUCH GAMING;

(C) WHETHER THE APPLICANT IS CAPABLE OF AND LIKELY TO CONDUCT THE ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT IS LICENSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE, ANY REGULATIONS PRESCRIBED UNDER THIS ARTICLE AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS;

(D) WHETHER THE APPLICANT HAS OR GUARANTEES ACQUISITION OF ADEQUATE BUSINESS COMPETENCE AND EXPERIENCE IN THE OPERATION OF LICENSED GAMING OR OF INTERACTIVE GAMING IN THIS STATE OR IN A STATE WITH COMPARABLE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS; AND

(E) WHETHER THE APPLICANT HAS OR WILL OBTAIN SUFFICIENT FINANCING FOR THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSED OPERATION AND FROM A SUITABLE SOURCE.

7. THE COMMISSION FURTHER SHALL DEVELOP STANDARDS BY WHICH TO EVALUATE AND APPROVE INTERACTIVE GAMING PLATFORMS FOR USE WITH INTERACTIVE GAMING. INTERACTIVE GAMING PLATFORMS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION BEFORE BEING USED BY A LICENSEE OR SIGNIFICANT VENDOR TO CONDUCT INTERACTIVE GAMING IN THIS STATE.

8. THE COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE ALL LICENSEES TO PAY A ONE-TIME FEE OF TEN MILLION DOLLARS. SUCH FEE PAID BY EACH LICENSEE SHALL BE APPLIED TO SATISFY, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AS APPLICABLE, THAT LICENSEE'S TAX OBLIGATION PURSUANT TO SECTION FOURTEEN HUNDRED FIVE OF THIS ARTICLE IN THIRTY-SIX EQUAL MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS, ALLOCATED TO EACH OF THE FIRST THIRTY-SIX MONTHS OF TAX OWED AFTER THE LICENSEE HAS BEGUN OPERATING INTERACTIVE GAMING PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE. NO AMOUNTS NOT REQUIRED TO BE USED TO SATISFY SUCH TAX OBLIGATION DURING THAT PERIOD SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO PAYMENT OF SUCH TAX OBLIGATION AFTER THAT PERIOD.

9. LICENSES ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR TEN YEARS.

10. THE COMMISSION, BY REGULATION, MAY AUTHORIZE AND PROMULGATE ANY RULES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES, OR AUTHORIZED AGENCIES THEREOF (A) TO ENABLE PATRONS IN THOSE STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERACTIVE GAMING OFFERED BY LICENSEES UNDER THIS ARTICLE OR (B) TO ENABLE PATRONS IN THIS STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERACTIVE GAMING OFFERED BY LICENSEES UNDER THE LAWS OF THOSE OTHER STATES, PROVIDED THAT SUCH OTHER STATE OR AUTHORIZED AGENCY APPLIES SUITABILITY STANDARDS AND REVIEW MATERIALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

11. ANY REGULATIONS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION TEN OF THIS SECTION MUST SET FORTH PROVISIONS THAT ADDRESS:

(A) ANY ARRANGEMENTS TO SHARE REVENUE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND ANY OTHER STATE OR AGENCY WITHIN ANOTHER STATE; AND

(B) ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF INTERACTIVE GAMING OFFERED PURSUANT TO ANY SUCH AGREEMENT AND THE PROTECTION OF PATRONS LOCATED IN THIS STATE.

12. THE COMMISSION MAY DELEGATE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO ADMINISTER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE TO THE DIVISION, AS IT SEES FIT, EXCEPT FOR ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO APPROVE LICENSES.

1 S 1403. REQUIRED SAFEGUARDS/MINIMUM STANDARDS. THE COMMISSION SHALL
2 REQUIRE LICENSEES TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO MEET THE STANDARDS SET OUT IN
3 THIS SECTION, ALONG WITH SUCH OTHER STANDARDS THAT THE COMMISSION IN ITS
4 DISCRETION MAY CHOOSE TO REQUIRE.

5 (A) APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE, TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF
6 CERTAINTY, THAT PARTICIPANTS IN INTERACTIVE GAMING ARE NOT YOUNGER THAN
7 TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE.

8 (B) APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE, TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF
9 CERTAINTY, THAT PARTICIPANTS IN INTERACTIVE GAMING ARE PHYSICALLY
10 LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE OR SUCH OTHER JURISDICTION THAT THE COMMISSION
11 HAS DETERMINED TO BE PERMISSIBLE.

12 (C) APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT, TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF
13 CERTAINTY, THE PRIVACY AND ONLINE SECURITY OF PARTICIPANTS IN INTERAC-
14 TIVE GAMING.

15 (D) APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE, TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF
16 CERTAINTY, THAT THE INTERACTIVE GAMING IS FAIR AND HONEST AND THAT
17 APPROPRIATE MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO DETER, DETECT AND, TO THE EXTENT
18 REASONABLY POSSIBLE, TO PREVENT CHEATING, INCLUDING COLLUSION, AND USE
19 OF CHEATING DEVICES, INCLUDING USE OF SOFTWARE PROGRAMS (SOMETIMES
20 REFERRED TO AS "BOTS") THAT MAKE BETS OR WAGERS ACCORDING TO ALGORITHMS.

21 (E) APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS TO MINIMIZE COMPULSIVE GAMING AND TO
22 PROVIDE NOTICE TO PARTICIPANTS OF RESOURCES TO HELP PROBLEM GAMBLERS.

23 (F) APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS ARE HELD IN
24 ACCOUNTS SEGREGATED FROM THE FUNDS OF LICENSEES AND OTHERWISE ARE
25 PROTECTED FROM CORPORATE INSOLVENCY, FINANCIAL RISK OR CRIMINAL OR CIVIL
26 ACTIONS AGAINST THE LICENSEE.

27 S 1404. SCOPE OF LICENSING REVIEW. 1. IN CONNECTION WITH ANY LICENSE
28 ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, THE LICENSEE, SIGNIFICANT VENDOR OR
29 APPLICANT SHALL IDENTIFY AND THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW THE SUITABILITY
30 OF SUCH LICENSEE'S, SIGNIFICANT VENDOR'S OR APPLICANT'S OWNER, CHIEF
31 EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND ANY OTHER OFFICER OR
32 EMPLOYEE WHO THE COMMISSION DEEMS IS SIGNIFICANTLY INVOLVED IN THE
33 MANAGEMENT OR CONTROL OF THE LICENSEE, SIGNIFICANT VENDOR OR APPLICANT
34 OR OF THE INTERACTIVE GAMING PLATFORM. "OWNER" FOR PURPOSES OF THIS
35 PROVISION MEANS ANY PERSON WHO DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY HOLDS ANY BENEFI-
36 CIAL OR OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN THE APPLICANT OF FIVE PERCENT OR GREATER
37 OR ANY AMOUNT OF OWNERSHIP THAT THE COMMISSION DETERMINES TO BE SIGNIF-
38 ICANT OWNERSHIP OF THE LICENSEE, SIGNIFICANT VENDOR, OR APPLICANT.

39 2. INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS ARE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS SET OUT IN
40 THIS SECTION.

41 (A) AN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR HOLDING UNDER TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE
42 EQUITY SECURITIES OF A LICENSEE'S OR SIGNIFICANT VENDOR'S (OR APPLI-
43 CANT'S) HOLDING OR INTERMEDIARY COMPANIES, SHALL BE GRANTED A WAIVER OF
44 ANY INVESTIGATION OF SUITABILITY OR OTHER REQUIREMENT IF SUCH SECURITIES
45 ARE THOSE OF A CORPORATION, WHETHER PUBLICLY TRADED OR PRIVATELY HELD,
46 AND ITS HOLDINGS OF SUCH SECURITIES WERE PURCHASED FOR INVESTMENT
47 PURPOSES ONLY AND IT FILES A CERTIFIED STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT IT
48 HAS NO INTENTION OF INFLUENCING OR AFFECTING THE AFFAIRS OF THE ISSUER,
49 THE LICENSEE (OR SIGNIFICANT VENDOR OR APPLICANT, AS APPLICABLE) OR ITS
50 HOLDING OR INTERMEDIARY COMPANIES; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT SHALL BE
51 PERMITTED TO VOTE ON MATTERS PUT TO THE VOTE OF THE OUTSTANDING SECURITY
52 HOLDERS. THE COMMISSION MAY GRANT SUCH A WAIVER TO AN INSTITUTIONAL
53 INVESTOR HOLDING A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF SUCH SECURITIES UPON A SHOWING
54 OF GOOD CAUSE AND IF THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED ABOVE ARE MET. ANY INSTI-
55 TUTIONAL INVESTOR GRANTED A WAIVER UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH WHICH SUBSE-
56 QUENTLY DETERMINES TO INFLUENCE OR AFFECT THE AFFAIRS OF THE ISSUER

1 SHALL PROVIDE NOT LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS' NOTICE OF SUCH INTENT AND SHALL
2 FILE WITH THE COMMISSION A REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF SUITABILITY
3 BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION THAT MAY INFLUENCE OR AFFECT THE AFFAIRS OF THE
4 ISSUER; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT SHALL BE PERMITTED TO VOTE ON MATTERS
5 PUT TO THE VOTE OF THE OUTSTANDING SECURITY HOLDERS. IF AN INSTITUTIONAL
6 INVESTOR CHANGES ITS INVESTMENT INTENT, OR IF THE COMMISSION FINDS
7 REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR MAY BE FOUND
8 UNSUITABLE, NO ACTION OTHER THAN DIVESTITURE SHALL BE TAKEN BY SUCH
9 INVESTOR WITH RESPECT TO ITS SECURITY HOLDINGS UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN
10 COMPLIANCE WITH ANY REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION, WHICH
11 MAY INCLUDE THE EXECUTION OF A TRUST AGREEMENT. THE LICENSEE (OR SIGNIF-
12 ICANT VENDOR OR APPLICANT, AS APPLICABLE) AND ITS RELEVANT HOLDING,
13 INTERMEDIARY OR SUBSIDIARY COMPANY SHALL NOTIFY THE COMMISSION IMME-
14 DIATELY OF ANY INFORMATION ABOUT, OR ACTIONS OF, AN INSTITUTIONAL INVE-
15 STOR HOLDING ITS EQUITY SECURITIES WHERE SUCH INFORMATION OR ACTION MAY
16 IMPACT UPON THE ELIGIBILITY OF SUCH INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR FOR A WAIVER
17 PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH.

18 (B) IF AT ANY TIME THE COMMISSION FINDS THAT AN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR
19 HOLDING ANY SECURITY OF A HOLDING OR INTERMEDIARY COMPANY OF A LICENSEE
20 OR SIGNIFICANT VENDOR OR APPLICANT, OR, WHERE RELEVANT, OF ANOTHER
21 SUBSIDIARY COMPANY OF A HOLDING OR INTERMEDIARY COMPANY OF A LICENSEE OR
22 SIGNIFICANT VENDOR OR APPLICANT WHICH IS RELATED IN ANY WAY TO THE
23 FINANCING OF THE LICENSEE OR SIGNIFICANT VENDOR OR APPLICANT, FAILS TO
24 COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SECTION, OR IF AT ANY
25 TIME THE COMMISSION FINDS THAT, BY REASON OF THE EXTENT OR NATURE OF ITS
26 HOLDINGS, AN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR IS IN A POSITION TO EXERCISE SUCH A
27 SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT UPON THE CONTROLLING INTERESTS OF A LICENSEE OR
28 SIGNIFICANT VENDOR OR APPLICANT THAT INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF
29 SUITABILITY OF THE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE
30 PUBLIC INTEREST, THE COMMISSION MAY TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION OTHERWISE
31 AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS ARTICLE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

32 (C) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, AN "INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR" SHALL
33 MEAN ANY RETIREMENT FUND ADMINISTERED BY A PUBLIC AGENCY FOR THE EXCLU-
34 SIVE BENEFIT OF FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES; INVESTMENT
35 COMPANY REGISTERED UNDER THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940 (15 U.S.C. S
36 80A-1 ET SEQ.); COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUST ORGANIZED BY BANKS UNDER
37 PART NINE OF THE RULES OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY; CLOSED END
38 INVESTMENT TRUST; CHARTERED OR LICENSED LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OR PROP-
39 erty AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY; BANKING AND OTHER CHARTERED OR
40 LICENSED LENDING INSTITUTION; INVESTMENT ADVISOR REGISTERED UNDER THE
41 INVESTMENT ADVISORS ACT OF 1940 (15 U.S.C. S 80B-1 ET SEQ.); AND SUCH
42 OTHER PERSONS AS THE COMMISSION MAY DETERMINE FOR REASONS CONSISTENT
43 WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

44 S 1405. STATE TAX. LICENSEES ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF CONDUCTING
45 INTERACTIVE GAMING PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE SHALL PAY A PRIVILEGE TAX
46 BASED ON THE LICENSEE'S INTERACTIVE GAMING GROSS REVENUE AT A FIFTEEN
47 PERCENT RATE.

48 S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 225.00 of the penal law is amended to
49 read as follows:

50 1. "Contest of chance" means any contest, game, gaming scheme or
51 gaming device in which the outcome depends [in a material degree]
52 PREDOMINANTLY upon an element of chance, notwithstanding that skill of
53 the contestants may also be a factor therein.

54 S 3. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 225.36 to read
55 as follows:

56 S 225.36 INTERACTIVE GAMING OFFENSES AND EXCEPTIONS.

1 1. THE KNOWING AND WILLFUL OFFERING OF UNLICENSED INTERACTIVE GAMING
2 TO PERSONS IN THIS STATE, OR THE KNOWING AND WILLFUL PROVISION OF
3 SERVICES WITH RESPECT THERETO, SHALL CONSTITUTE A GAMBLING OFFENSE UNDER
4 THIS ARTICLE.

5 2. LICENSED INTERACTIVE GAMING ACTIVITIES UNDER SECTION FOURTEEN
6 HUNDRED TWO OF THE RACING, PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING AND BREEDING LAW SHALL
7 NOT BE A GAMBLING OFFENSE UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

8 3. A PERSON OFFERING UNLICENSED INTERACTIVE GAMING TO PERSONS IN THIS
9 STATE SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ALL TAXES SET FORTH IN SECTION FOURTEEN
10 HUNDRED FIVE OF THE RACING, PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING AND BREEDING LAW IN THE
11 SAME MANNER AND AMOUNTS AS IF SUCH PERSON WERE A LICENSEE. TIMELY
12 PAYMENT OF SUCH TAXES SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A DEFENSE TO ANY PROSECUTION
13 OR OTHER PROCEEDING IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERACTIVE GAMING EXCEPT FOR
14 A PROSECUTION OR PROCEEDING ALLEGING FAILURE TO MAKE SUCH PAYMENT.

15 S 4. Severability clause. If any provision of this act or application
16 thereof shall for any reason be adjudged by any court of competent
17 jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or
18 invalidate the remainder of the act, but shall be confined in its opera-
19 tion to the provision thereof directly involved in the controversy in
20 which the judgment shall have been rendered.

21 S 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
22 it shall have become a law.