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SENATE BOX 203046 ROOM 15-EW THE STATE CAPITOL HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3046 TELEPHONE: (717) 787-1463 FAX: (717) 772-2108

EMAIL: tsolobay@pasenate.com
WEBSITE: www.senatorsolobay.com



Senate of Pennsylvania

TIMOTHY J. SOLOBAY

December 13, 2012



CANONSBURG BOROUGH BUILDING 68 EAST PIKE STREET, ROOM 205 CANONSBURG, PA 15317 TELEPHONE: (724) 746-3762 FAX: (724) 746-3509

SATELLITE OFFICES

GEORGE WASHINGTON HOTEL 60 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 207 WASHINGTON, PA 15301 TELEPHONE: (724) 223-2114 FAX: (724) 223-2117

GREENE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
93 E. HIGH STREET, ROOM 308
WAYNESBURG, PA 15370
TELEPHONE: (724) 627-9802

The Honorable Tom Corbett Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 225 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

Act 2 of 2012 made significant changes to the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act to assist our local clubs and charitable organizations. In the months since Act 2 was passed, however, a number of problems related to implementation of the law have surfaced. Some of these issues are the result of new provisions in Act 2, while others are due to a lack of understanding of what was required by law and regulation long before this update. Regardless, much confusion has been generated despite continued efforts by the Department of Revenue, Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement, and legislators to clarify and implement the law.

In light of this uncertainty, it is clear that a significant number of eligible organizations that utilize small games of chance to raise funds may be unprepared to meet the upcoming reporting deadline. While the law is silent relating to the deadlines by when those reports must be filed, the Department of Revenue has set February 1, 2013, as the initial reporting date.

Eligible organizations under the Local Small Games of Chance Act are all community-based or charitable non-profit institutions. These organizations are presided over by individuals who are simply volunteering their time to better their local communities. The reporting requirements within Act 2 and the proposed deadline have placed a serious strain on these volunteers and in turn we fear that this may have a negative impact on the critical services these organizations provide to the communities we represent, even to the point of shutting down.

Due to the seriousness of the issues and ongoing questions raised by our small games of chance licensees, as well as the fact that the law does not include a specific date on which annual and semi-annual reports must be filed, we are requesting that you direct the Secretary of Revenue to delay the required filing of any report to allow the General Assembly adequate time to debate the issues raised and consider any legislative fixes to Act 2 that may be necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Furthermore, we look forward to working with you and hearing your input on recommendations to address some of the inadvertent hardship Act 2 has placed on non-profit organizations across the Commonwealth who regularly contribute to their community.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Solobay 46th District

Lisa M. Boscola 18th District

Christine M. Tartaglione

Christine M. Tartaglione 2nd District

John Yudichak 14th District

James R. Brewster 45th District

Robert F. Teplitz

Matthew H. Smith 37th District

Richard A. Kasunic
32nd District

Wayne D. Fontana 42nd District

Shirley M. Kitchen
3rd District

LeAnna M. Washington

4th District

John P. Blake 22nd District

Judith L. Schwank

cc: The Honorable Dan Meuser, Secretary of Revenue
Major John Lutz, Director, Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement, Pennsylvania State Police