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HOUSE BILL NO. 2848

Offered January 20, 1997

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-340.18 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Charitable Gaming Commission; criminal violations.

Patrons—O'Brien; Senator: Barry

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-340.18 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-340.18. Powers and duties of the Commission.

The Commission shall have all powers and duties necessary to carry out the provisions of this article and to exercise the control of charitable gaming as set forth in § 18.2-340.15. Such powers and duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. The Commission is vested with jurisdiction and supervision over all charitable gaming authorized under the provisions of this article and including all persons that conduct or provide goods, services or premises used in the conduct of charitable gaming. It may employ such persons as are necessary to ensure that charitable gaming is conducted in conformity with the provisions of this article and the regulations of the Commission. The Commission may designate such agents and employees as it deems necessary and appropriate to be vested with like power to enforce the provisions of this article ~~and the criminal laws of the Commonwealth as is vested in the chief law-enforcement officer of any county, city or town.~~

2. The Commission, its agents and employees and any law-enforcement officers charged with the enforcement of charitable gaming laws shall have free access to the offices, facilities or any other place of business of any organization, including any premises devoted in whole or in part to the conduct of charitable gaming. These individuals may enter such places or premises for the purpose of carrying out any duty imposed by this article, securing records required to be maintained by an organization, investigating complaints, or conducting audits.

3. The Commission may compel the production of any books, documents, records, or memoranda of any organizations or ~~suppliers~~ ^{suppliers} for the purpose of satisfying itself that this article and its regulations are strictly complied with. In addition, the Commission may require the production of an annual balance sheet and operating statement of any person granted a permit pursuant to the provisions of this article and may require the production of any contract to which such person is or may be a party.

4. The Commission shall promulgate regulations under which charitable gaming shall be conducted in the Commonwealth and all such other regulations that it deems necessary and appropriate to effect the purposes of this article. Such regulations may include penalties for violations. The regulations shall be subject to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.).

5. The Commission may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses before it, administer oaths, and compel production of records or other documents and testimony of such witnesses whenever, in the judgment of the Commission, it is necessary to do so for the effectual discharge of its duties.

6. The Commission may compel any person holding a permit to file with the Commission such documents, information or data as shall appear to the Commission to be necessary for the performance of its duties.

7. The Commission may enter into arrangements with any governmental agency of this or any other state or any locality in the Commonwealth for the purposes of exchanging information or performing any other act to better ensure the proper conduct of charitable gaming.

8. The Commission may issue *an* interim certification of tax-exempt status and collect a fee therefor in accordance with subsection B of § 18.2-340.24.

9. The Commission shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly, which report shall include a financial statement of the operation of the Commission and any recommendations for legislation applicable to charitable gaming in the Commonwealth.

10. The Commission, its agents and employees may conduct such audits, in addition to those required by § 18.2-340.31, as they deem necessary and desirable.

11. The Commission may limit the number of organizations for which a person may manage, operate or conduct charitable games.

12. The Commission ~~may~~ ^{shall} report any alleged criminal violation of this article to the ~~appropriate attorney for the Commonwealth~~ ^{Department of State Police} for appropriate action.

INTRODUCED

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