HB 951 2013

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to sweepstakes devices; providing legislative intent; creating s. 849.0945, F.S.; providing definitions; prohibiting the use of certain sweepstakes devices; providing an exception for operators who were using such devices on or before a specified date; requiring local governments to renew certain permits, licenses, or permissions to operate such devices; authorizing certain officials to seek injunctive relief against operators who violate this act; limiting the scope of the act; providing for future repeal; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that there is an increasing proliferation of establishments that use computer or video displays to show the results of sweepstakes, contests, or other game promotions, which has created uncertainty and inconsistency in the application of existing laws, and further finds that the continued increase of such electronic devices may lead to adverse effects on persons in this state.

(2) The Legislature also finds that to provide for the uniform and clear enforcement of existing law, to preserve the public peace and order, and to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this state, the Legislature should study these issues and pass appropriate legislation.

(3) Therefore, the Legislature intends to limit the

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expansion and use of certain electronic devices in connection with game promotions until the Legislature can study the issue and enact appropriate legislation.

- Section 2. Section 849.0945, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 849.0945 Use of electronic devices in connection with game promotions; moratorium.—
  - (1) As used in this section, the term:

- (a) "Game promotion" means the same as in s. 849.094.
- (b) "Operator" means the same as in s. 849.094.
- (c) "Sweepstakes device" means an electronic machine or device operated by or in interaction with a participant in a game promotion if the machine or device is:
- 1. Owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the operator or a partner, affiliate, subsidiary, contractor, or agent of the operator; and
- 2. Located in an establishment owned, leased, or controlled by the operator or a partner, affiliate, subsidiary, contractor, or agent of the operator.
- (2) An operator may not use a sweepstakes device unless the operator was using it on or before July 1, 2013. An operator who was using a sweepstakes device on or before July 1, 2013, may continue to operate the device if the operator files an affidavit with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services by August 1, 2013, stating the address where each device is located and attesting to its use on or before July 1, 2013, and updates the affidavit at the time of any change.
  - (3) Upon the expiration of a current permit, license, or

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other permission to operate that was issued by a county or municipality to such operator, the county or municipality shall renew the permit, license, or other permission to operate the device pursuant to its ordinances and procedures. However, no new permits, licenses, or other permission to operate may be issued to any operator that has not met the requirements of this section.

- (4) The Attorney General or the state attorney for the judicial circuit in which a sweepstakes device is located may seek injunctive relief against an operator who operates it in violation of this section.
- (5) This section does not prevent or limit a county or municipality from otherwise regulating the use of sweepstakes devices in its jurisdiction.
- (6) This section may not be construed to allow the use of a mechanical or electromechanical reel in connection with a game promotion.
  - (7) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2015. Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.