

By Senator Margolis

35-00815-14

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to gaming; providing a short title;
3 prohibiting applicants and permitholders of pari-
4 mutuel permits from contributing to certain campaign
5 accounts and political committees; defining the term
6 "department officials"; prohibiting specified conduct
7 or employment by department officials; providing an
8 effective date.

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10 WHEREAS, public confidence of the residents of this state
11 is important to ensure success of the gaming industry in the
12 State of Florida, and

13 WHEREAS, the public has greater confidence with the
14 assurance of increased controls restricting the ability of the
15 gaming industry to directly influence the political process, and

16 WHEREAS, public confidence is increased by transparency and
17 accountability in the regulation of the gaming industry, and

18 WHEREAS, it is imperative that regulators of the gaming
19 industry be held to a high standard of conduct, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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23 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Public Confidence
24 in Gaming Act."

25 Section 2. Employment and political activity restrictions;
26 pari-mutuel applicants and permitholders and specified
27 department officials.-

28 (1) A person or entity who applies to the Division of Pari-
29 mutuel Wagering within the Department of Business and

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30 Professional Regulation for a permit to conduct pari-mutuel
31 operations or who holds a permit to conduct such operations
32 pursuant to chapter 550, Florida Statutes, may not make a
33 contribution to the campaign account of an officeholder of, or a
34 candidate for, the office of Governor, Attorney General, Chief
35 Financial Officer, Commissioner of Agriculture, state senator,
36 or state representative. In addition, such person or entity may
37 not make a contribution to a political committee of which such
38 officeholder or candidate is a member.

39 (2) (a) As used in this subsection, the term "department
40 officials" refers to the following positions within the
41 Department of Business and Professional Regulation:

42 1. The Secretary of Business and Professional Regulation.
43 2. The chief of staff.
44 3. The general counsel.
45 4. The division director, deputy director, chief of
46 auditing, chief of operations, chief of investigations, chief of
47 slot operations, revenue program administrator, licensing
48 administrator, administrator of the state compliance agency, and
49 regional program administrators of the Division of Pari-mutuel
50 Wagering.

51 (b) Department officials are prohibited from:

52 1. Holding, or being a candidate for, public office or
53 taking an active part in a political campaign while employed by
54 the department.

55 2. Holding other employment, including receiving
56 compensation or other remuneration for speaking at or attending
57 an event associated with the gaming or pari-mutuel industry.

58 3. Accepting employment from or entering into a contractual

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59 relationship with an entity of the gaming or pari-mutuel
60 industry for 4 years after termination of his or her employment
61 with the department.

62 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.