

By Senator Margolis

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to gaming; providing a short title;
3 prohibiting applicants for 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
7 political activity or employment by department
8 officials; providing an effective date.
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10 WHEREAS, public confidence in the conduct of the gaming
11 industry is an important factor in ensuring the success of the
12 industry in this state, and

13 WHEREAS, the enactment of increased controls restricting
14 the ability of the gaming industry to directly influence the
15 political process increases the public confidence in the conduct
16 of the gaming industry, and

17 WHEREAS, transparency and accountability in the regulation
18 of the gaming industry is of paramount importance in this
19 regard, and

20 WHEREAS, it is imperative that regulators of the gaming
21 industry be held to the highest standards of conduct, NOW,
22 THEREFORE,

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

28 Section 2. Political activity and employment restrictions;
29 pari-mutuel applicants and permitholders and specified

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30 department officials.-

31 (1) A person or entity who applies to the Division of Pari-
32 mutuel Wagering within the Department of Business and
33 Professional Regulation for a permit to conduct pari-mutuel
34 operations or who holds a permit to conduct such operations
35 pursuant to chapter 550, Florida Statutes, may not make a
36 contribution to the campaign account of an officeholder of, or a
37 candidate for, the office of Governor, Attorney General, Chief
38 Financial Officer, Commissioner of Agriculture, state senator,
39 or state representative. In addition, such person or entity may
40 not make a contribution to a political committee of which such
41 officeholder or candidate is a member.

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

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

54 (b) Department officials are prohibited from:

55 1. Holding, or being a candidate for, public office or
56 taking an active part in a political campaign while employed by
57 the department.

58 2. Holding other employment, including receiving

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59 compensation or other remuneration for speaking at or attending
60 an event associated with the gaming or pari-mutuel industry.

61 3. Accepting employment from or entering into a contractual
62 relationship with an entity of the gaming or pari-mutuel
63 industry for 4 years after termination of his or her employment
64 with the department.

65 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.