

SENATE No. 2042

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act Establishing and Regulating Resort-Style Entertainment in the Commonwealth..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The general court finds and declares that:

2 promoting the economic viability of the commonwealth is a fundamental purpose of state

3 government;

4 growing the commonwealth's economy is the best way to make the investments in those

5 areas that will strengthen the commonwealth;

6 the creation of resort-style entertainment complexes is an important part of an overall

7 strategy to ensure the state's economic growth;

8 authorizing 3 resort-style entertainment complexes will result in thousands of

9 construction jobs and billions of dollars of construction-related spending in the commonwealth;

10 once constructed, the 3 resort-style entertainment complexes will create thousands of new

11 jobs for residents of the commonwealth and offer a wide array of employment opportunities for

12 individuals with diverse educational backgrounds and skills, while enhancing the

13 commonwealth's workforce development system by creating career advancement opportunities
14 for casino employees;

15 ensuring that the resort casinos are located in distinct markets of the state expands
16 economic development and job creation broadly throughout the whole commonwealth and
17 recognizes that the needs of regional economies must be addressed;

18 revenue generated from resort casinos can be used to fund critical needs in the
19 commonwealth, and our cities and towns;

20 such investment in infrastructure is an economic necessity and will facilitate economic
21 development and job creation;

22 offsetting property tax burden, hitting middle and lower income homeowners the hardest,
23 and providing local services;

24 retooling and modernizing the racing industry and workforce in the commonwealth is
25 critical to the success of the resort-style entertainment industry and to the state's economic
26 growth overall;

27 addressing the social costs of gaming is an important and necessary part of any
28 comprehensive gaming plan and therefore this act provides for a high level of funding for these
29 costs and an evaluation mechanism to ensure we understand fully the impacts of gaming in the
30 commonwealth;

31 a rigorous gaming regulatory and enforcement scheme is needed to ensure fairness and
32 integrity in the gaming industry, and therefore this act contains a detailed strategy to ensure
33 proper oversight and evaluation of resort casinos in our commonwealth;

34 the success of gaming in this commonwealth requires public confidence and trust that
35 licensed gaming will be conducted honestly and competitively, that the resort-style entertainment
36 complexes licensed in the commonwealth will not unduly impact the quality of life enjoyed by
37 residents of the surrounding communities, and that gaming will be free from criminal and
38 corruptive elements;

39 public confidence and trust can only be maintained by strict regulation of all persons,
40 locations, practices, associations and activities related to the operation of the resort casinos
41 licensed in the commonwealth;

42 the resort-style entertainment complexes licensed in the commonwealth must therefore be
43 controlled to protect the public health, safety, and well being of the inhabitants of the
44 commonwealth, to foster the stability and success of gaming and to preserve the competitive
45 economy of the commonwealth;

46 the Massachusetts gaming control authority is therefore created as the custodian of the
47 public trust relative to the gaming industry and is explicitly granted broad powers within this act
48 so it may have the full authority to oversee the gaming industry and ensure that resort casino
49 operations are transparent; and

50 to delay or deny the commonwealth the opportunity to increase jobs, attain new revenue,
51 and address critical needs would be contrary to the best interests of our residents.

52 Section 39 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is
53 hereby amended by inserting in line 63 after the words "Loan Authority" the following words:
54 Massachusetts Gaming Control Authority.