

Senator Beach of the 21st offered the following amendment:

Amend the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities substitute to HB 118 (LC 43 0976ERS) by inserting after "appeals;" on line 5 "to provide for pari-mutuel betting under certain conditions; to impose a tax on hosts or managers of pari-mutuel betting; to provide for restrictions and penalties;"

By redesignating Sections 2 and 3 as Sections 3 and 4, respectively, and by inserting after line 243 the following:

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

"ARTICLE 36

10-1-950.

(a) As used in this Article, the term 'pari-mutuel betting' means a method or system of wagering that involves the distribution to winners of a portion of the pool of sums wagered.

(b) Examples of pari-mutuel betting shall include, but shall not be limited to:

(1) Fantasy contests as defined in Article 35 of this Chapter;

(2) Games or contests involving the outcome of the performance of individuals participating in sporting events or competitions, provided that those wagering do not directly participate in such game or contest; and

(3) Games or contests involving the outcome of competition based on the performance of horses, dogs, or other animals.

10-1-951.

All forms of pari-mutuel betting shall be legal in Georgia, provided that all winning outcomes reflect in part the relative knowledge and skill of those who enter such wager.

10-1-952.

Pari-mutuel betting may provide for an amount to be paid to the manager or host of the wager, provided that such host or manager:

(1) Registers with the state revenue commissioner; and

(2) Pays annually to the state revenue commissioner a tax of 6 percent on such host or manager's gross revenues from hosting or managing pari-mutuel betting for the preceding 12 months. The first such payment shall be due upon initial registration with the state revenue commissioner.

10-1-953.

A host or manager of pari-mutuel betting shall submit evidence to the state revenue commissioner that such host or manager has established and will implement commercially reasonable procedures for their pari-mutuel betting that:

(1) Takes reasonable steps to ensure that no persons under the age of 18 participate in any pari-mutuel betting, including verifying that all wagerers are 18 years of age or older; and

(2) Provide those entering wagers access to information on responsible play and access to information on seeking assistance for compulsive behavior.

10-1-954.

In addition to any other remedies provided by law, a host or manager of pari-mutuel betting that violates this article is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000.00 for each violation, not to exceed \$125,000.00 for violations arising out of the same transaction or occurrence, which shall accrue to the state and may be recovered in a civil action brought by the state revenue commissioner.

10-1-955.

This Article shall not apply to fantasy contest operators which shall be governed by Article 35 of this Chapter."