

**As Reported by the House Rules and Reference Committee**

**128th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2009-2010**

**H. J. R. No. 14**

**Representatives Celeste, Bacon**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Harris, Garland, Carney, Grossman, Stewart,  
Heard, Weddington, Blessing, Boyd, Book**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION**

To amend Section 6 of Article XV of the Constitution 1  
of the State of Ohio to change the location of the 2  
authorized casino in Columbus to a designated site 3  
in Franklin County. 4

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, 5  
three-fifths of the members elected to each house concurring 6  
herein, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the 7  
state, in the manner prescribed by law at the special election to 8  
be held on May 4, 2010, a proposal to amend Section 6 of Article 9  
XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to read as follows: 10

**ARTICLE XV**

**Section 6.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, 11  
lotteries, and the sale of lottery tickets, for any purpose 12  
whatever, shall forever be prohibited in this State. 13

(A) The General Assembly may authorize an agency of the state 14  
to conduct lotteries, to sell rights to participate therein, and 15  
to award prizes by chance to participants, provided that the 16  
entire net proceeds of any such lottery are paid into a fund of 17  
the state treasury that shall consist solely of such proceeds and 18  
shall be used solely for the support of elementary, secondary, 19  
vocational, and special education programs as determined in 20

appropriations made by the General Assembly. 21

(B) The General Assembly may authorize and regulate the 22  
operation of bingo to be conducted by charitable organizations for 23  
charitable purposes. 24

(C)(1) Casino gaming shall be authorized at four casino 25  
facilities (a single casino at a designated location within each 26  
of the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, ~~Columbus~~ and Toledo and 27  
within Franklin County) to create new funding for cities, 28  
counties, public school districts, law enforcement, the horse 29  
racing industry and job training for Ohio's workforce. 30

(2) A thirty-three percent tax shall be levied and collected 31  
by the state on all gross casino revenue received by each casino 32  
operator of these four casino facilities. In addition, casino 33  
operators, their operations, their owners, and their property 34  
shall be subject to all customary non-discriminatory fees, taxes, 35  
and other charges that are applied to, levied against, or 36  
otherwise imposed generally upon other Ohio businesses, their 37  
gross or net revenues, their operations, their owners, and their 38  
property. Except as otherwise provided in section 6(C), no other 39  
casino gaming-related state or local fees, taxes, or other charges 40  
(however measured, calculated, or otherwise derived) may be, 41  
directly or indirectly, applied to, levied against, or otherwise 42  
imposed upon gross casino revenue, casino operators, their 43  
operations, their owners, or their property. 44

(3) The proceeds of the tax on gross casino revenue collected 45  
by the state shall be distributed as follows: 46

(a) Fifty-one percent of the tax on gross casino revenue 47  
shall be distributed among all eighty-eight counties in proportion 48  
to such counties' respective populations at the time of such 49  
distribution. If a county's most populated city, as of the 2000 50  
United States census bureau census, had a population greater than 51

80,000, then fifty percent of that county's distribution will go 52  
to said city. 53

(b) Thirty-four percent of the tax on gross casino revenue 54  
shall be distributed among all eighty-eight counties in proportion 55  
to such counties' respective public school district student 56  
populations at the time of such distribution. Each such 57  
distribution received by a county shall be distributed among all 58  
public school districts located (in whole or in part) within such 59  
county in proportion to each school district's respective student 60  
population who are residents of such county at the time of such 61  
distribution to the school districts. Each public school district 62  
shall determine how its distributions are appropriated, but all 63  
distributions shall only be used to support primary and secondary 64  
education. 65

(c) Five percent of the tax on gross casino revenue shall be 66  
distributed to the host city where the casino facility that 67  
generated such gross casino revenue is located. 68

(d) Three percent of the tax on gross casino revenue shall be 69  
distributed to fund the Ohio casino control commission. 70

(e) Three percent of the tax on gross casino revenue shall be 71  
distributed to an Ohio state racing commission fund to support 72  
purses, breeding programs, and operations at all existing 73  
commercial horse racetracks permitted as of January 1, 2009. 74  
However, no funding under this division shall be distributed to 75  
operations of an Ohio commercial horse racetrack if an owner or 76  
operator of the racetrack holds a majority interest in an Ohio 77  
casino facility or in an Ohio casino license. 78

(f) Two percent of the tax on gross casino revenue shall be 79  
distributed to a state law enforcement training fund to enhance 80  
public safety by providing additional training opportunities to 81  
the law enforcement community. 82

(g) Two percent of the tax on gross casino revenue shall be 83  
distributed to a state problem gambling and addictions fund which 84  
shall be used for the treatment of problem gambling and substance 85  
abuse, and related research. 86

Tax collection, and distributions to public school districts 87  
and local governments, under sections 6(C)(2) and (3), are 88  
intended to supplement, not supplant, any funding obligations of 89  
the state. Accordingly, all such distributions shall be 90  
disregarded for purposes of determining whether funding 91  
obligations imposed by other sections of this Constitution are 92  
met. 93

(4) There is hereby created the Ohio casino control 94  
commission which shall license and regulate casino operators, 95  
management companies retained by such casino operators, key 96  
employees of such casino operators and such management companies, 97  
gaming-related vendors, and all gaming authorized by section 6(C), 98  
to ensure the integrity of casino gaming. 99

Said commission shall determine all voting issues by majority 100  
vote and shall consist of seven members appointed by the governor 101  
with the advice and consent of the senate. Each member of the 102  
commission must be a resident of Ohio. At least one member of the 103  
commission must be experienced in law enforcement and criminal 104  
investigation. At least one member of the commission must be a 105  
certified public accountant experienced in accounting and 106  
auditing. At least one member of the commission must be an 107  
attorney admitted to the practice of law in Ohio. At least one 108  
member of the commission must be a resident of a county where one 109  
of the casino facilities is located. Not more than four members 110  
may be affiliated with the same political party. No commission 111  
member may have any affiliation with an Ohio casino operator or 112  
facility. 113

Said commission shall require each initial licensed casino 114

operator of each of the four casino facilities to pay an upfront 115  
license fee of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) per casino 116  
facility for the benefit of the state, for a total of two hundred 117  
million dollars (\$200,000,000). The upfront license fee shall be 118  
used to fund state economic development programs which support 119  
regional job training efforts to equip Ohio's workforce with 120  
additional skills to grow the economy. 121

To carry out the tax provisions of section 6(C), and in 122  
addition to any other enforcement powers provided under Ohio law, 123  
the tax commissioner of the State and the Ohio casino control 124  
commission, or any person employed by the tax commissioner or said 125  
commission for that purpose, upon demand, may inspect books, 126  
accounts, records, and memoranda of any person subject to such 127  
provisions, and may examine under oath any officer, agent, or 128  
employee of that person. 129

(5) Each initial licensed casino operator of each of the four 130  
casino facilities shall make an initial investment of at least two 131  
hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) for the development 132  
of each casino facility for a total minimum investment of one 133  
billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) statewide. A casino operator: (a) 134  
may not hold a majority interest in more than two of the four 135  
licenses allocated to the casino facilities at any one time; and 136  
(b) may not hold a majority interest in more than two of the four 137  
casino facilities at any one time. 138

(6) Casino gaming authorized in section 6(C) shall be 139  
conducted only by licensed casino operators of the four casino 140  
facilities or by licensed management companies retained by such 141  
casino operators. At the discretion of each licensed casino 142  
operator of a casino facility: (a) casino gaming may be conducted 143  
twenty-four hours each day; and (b) a maximum of five thousand 144  
slot machines may be operated at such casino facility. 145

(7) Each of the four casino facilities shall be subject to 146

all applicable state laws and local ordinances related to health 147  
and building codes, or any related requirements and provisions. 148  
Notwithstanding the foregoing, no local zoning, land use laws, 149  
subdivision regulations or similar provisions shall prohibit the 150  
development or operation of the four casino facilities set forth 151  
herein, provided that no casino facility shall be located in a 152  
district zoned exclusively residential as of January 1, 2009. 153

(8) Notwithstanding any provision of the Constitution, 154  
statutes of Ohio, or a local charter and ordinance, only one 155  
casino facility shall be operated in each of the cities of 156  
Cleveland, ~~Columbus~~, Cincinnati, and Toledo and in Franklin 157  
County. 158

(9) For purposes of this section 6(C), the following 159  
definitions shall be applied: 160

"Casino facility" means all or any part of any one or more of 161  
the following properties (together with all improvements situated 162  
thereon) in Cleveland, Cincinnati, ~~Columbus~~ and Toledo and in 163  
Franklin County: 164

(a) Cleveland: 165

Being an approximate 61 acre area in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 166  
as identified by the Cuyahoga County Auditor, as of 02/27/09, as 167  
tax parcel numbers 004-28-001, 004-29-004A, 004-29-005, 168  
004-29-008, 004-29-009, 004-29-010, 004-29-012, 004-29-013, 169  
004-29-014, 004-29-020, 004-29-018, 004-29-017, 004-29-016, 170  
004-29-021, 004-29-025, 004-29-027, 004-29-026, 004-28-008, 171  
004-28-004, 004-28-003, 004-28-002, 004-28-010, 004-29-001, 172  
004-29-007 and 004-04-017 and all lands and air rights lying 173  
within and/or above the public rights of way adjacent to such 174  
parcels. 175

Being an approximate 8.66 acre area in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 176  
being that parcel identified by the Cuyahoga County Auditor, as of 177

02/27/09, as tax parcel number 101-21-002 and all lands and air 178  
rights lying within and/or above the public rights of way adjacent 179  
to such parcel. 180

Being an approximate 2.56 acre area in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 181  
being that parcel identified by the Cuyahoga County Auditor, as of 182  
02/27/09, as tax parcel number 101-21-002 and all lands and air 183  
rights lying within and/or above the public rights of way adjacent 184  
to such parcel. 185

Being an approximate 7.91 acre area in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 186  
being that parcel identified by the Cuyahoga County Auditor, as of 187  
02/27/09, as tax parcel number 101-23-050A and all lands and air 188  
rights lying within and/or above the public rights of way adjacent 189  
to such parcel. 190

All air rights above the parcel located in Cuyahoga County, 191  
Ohio identified by the Cuyahoga County Auditor, as of 02/27/09, as 192  
tax parcel number 101-22-003. 193

Being an approximate 1.55 acre area in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 194  
as identified by the Cuyahoga County Auditor, as of 02/27/09, as 195  
tax parcel numbers 122-18-010, 122-18-011 and 122-18-012 and all 196  
lands and air rights lying within and/or above the public rights 197  
of way adjacent to such parcels. 198

Being an approximate 1.83 acre area in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 199  
as identified by the Cuyahoga County Auditor, as of 02/27/09, as 200  
tax parcel numbers 101-30-002 and 101-30-003 and all lands and air 201  
rights lying within and/or above the public rights of way adjacent 202  
to such parcels. 203

Consisting of floors one through four, mezzanine, basement, 204  
sub-basement, Parcel No. 36-2, Item III, Parcels First and Second, 205  
Item V, Parcel A, and Item VI, Parcel One of the Higbee Building 206  
in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, as identified by the Cuyahoga County 207  
Auditor, as of 2/29/09, as tax parcel numbers 101-23-002 and 208

101-23-050F and all lands and air rights lying within and/or above 209  
the public rights of way adjacent to such parcels. 210

(b) ~~Columbus~~ Franklin County: 211

Being an approximate ~~18.312~~ 113.794 acre area in ~~the City of~~ 212  
~~Columbus~~, Franklin County, Ohio, as identified by the Franklin 213  
County Auditor, as of ~~03/05/09~~ 01/19/10, as tax parcel ~~numbers~~ 214  
~~010-005518-80, 010-005518-90, 010-020215-80, 010-020215-90,~~ 215  
~~010-008443-80 and 010-008443-90~~ number 140-003620-00. 216

(c) Cincinnati; 217

Being an approximate 20.4 acre area in Hamilton County, Ohio, 218  
being identified by the Hamilton County Auditor, as of 02/27/09, 219  
as tax parcel numbers 074-0002-0009-00, 074-0001-0001-00, 220  
074-0001-0002-00, 074-0001-0003-00, 074-0001-0004-00, 221  
074-0001-0006-00, 074-0001-0008-00, 074-0001-0014-00, 222  
074-0001-0016-00, 074-0001-0031-00, 074-0001-0039-00, 223  
074-0001-0041-00, 074-0001-0042-00, 074-0001-0043-00, 224  
074-0002-0001-00, 074-0004-0001-00, 074-0004-0002-00, 225  
074-0004-0003-00 and 074-0005-0003-00. 226

(d) Toledo: 227

Being an approximate 44.24 acre area in the City of Toledo, 228  
Lucas County, Ohio, as identified by the Lucas County Auditor, as 229  
of 03/05/09, as tax parcel numbers 18-76138 and 18-76515. 230

"Casino gaming" means any type of slot machine or table game 231  
wagering, using money, casino credit, or any representative of 232  
value, authorized in any of the states of Indiana, Michigan, 233  
Pennsylvania and West Virginia as of January 1, 2009, and shall 234  
include slot machine and table game wagering subsequently 235  
authorized by, but shall not be limited by subsequent restrictions 236  
placed on such wagering in, such states. Notwithstanding the 237  
aforementioned definition, "casino gaming" does not include bingo, 238  
as authorized in article XV, section 6 of the Ohio Constitution 239



and conducted as of January 1, 2009, or horse racing where the 240  
pari-mutuel system of wagering is conducted, as authorized under 241  
the laws of Ohio as of January 1, 2009. 242

"Casino operator" means any person, trust, corporation, 243  
partnership, limited partnership, association, limited liability 244  
company or other business enterprise that directly holds an 245  
ownership or leasehold interest in a casino facility. "Casino 246  
operator" does not include an agency of the state, any political 247  
subdivision of the state, or any person, trust, corporation, 248  
partnership, limited partnership, association, limited liability 249  
company or other business enterprise that may have an interest in 250  
a casino facility, but who is legally or contractually restricted 251  
from conducting casino gaming. 252

"Gross casino revenue" means the total amount of money 253  
exchanged for the purchase of chips, tokens, tickets, electronic 254  
cards, or similar objects by casino patrons, less winnings paid to 255  
wagerers. 256

"Majority interest" in a license or in a casino facility (as 257  
the case may be) means beneficial ownership of more than fifty 258  
percent (50%) of the total fair market value of such license or 259  
casino facility (as the case may be). For purposes of the 260  
foregoing, whether a majority interest is held in a license or in 261  
a casino facility (as the case may be) shall be determined in 262  
accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock 263  
provided in Treas. Reg. § 1.409A-3(i)(5)(iii) as in effect on 264  
January 1, 2009. 265

"Slot machines" shall include any mechanical, electrical, or 266  
other device or machine which, upon insertion of a coin, token, 267  
ticket, or similar object, or upon payment of any consideration, 268  
is available to play or operate, the play or operation of which, 269  
whether by reason of the skill of the operator or application of 270  
the element of chance, or both, makes individual prize 271

determinations for individual participants in cash, premiums, 272  
merchandise, tokens, or any thing of value, whether the payoff is 273  
made automatically from the machine or in any other manner. 274

"Table game" means any game played with cards, dice, or any 275  
mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic device or machine for 276  
money, casino credit, or any representative of value. 277

(10) The General Assembly shall pass laws within six months 278  
of the effective date of section 6(C) to facilitate the operation 279  
of section 6(C). 280

(11) Each provision of section 6(C) is intended to be 281  
independent and severable, and if any provision of section 6(C) is 282  
held to be invalid, either on its face or as applied to any person 283  
or circumstance, the remaining provisions of section 6(C), and the 284  
application thereof to any person or circumstance other than those 285  
to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby. In any 286  
case of a conflict between any provision of section 6(C) and any 287  
other provision contained in this Constitution, the provisions of 288  
section 6(C) shall control. 289

(12) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6(C)(11), 290  
nothing in this section 6(C) (including, without limitation, the 291  
provisions of sections 6(C)(6) and 6(C)(8)) shall restrict or in 292  
any way limit lotteries authorized under section 6(A) of this 293  
article or bingo authorized under section 6(B) of this article. 294  
The provisions of this section 6(C) shall have no effect upon 295  
activities authorized under sections 6(A) and/or (6)(B) of this 296  
article. 297

EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEAL 298

If adopted by a majority of the electors voting on this 299  
proposal, the amendment takes immediate effect, and existing 300  
Section 6 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio 301  
is repealed from that effective date. 302