



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**Proposed Bill No. 5969**

LCO No. 1297

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

Introduced by:

REP. CARON, 44th Dist.

**AN ACT ALLOWING THE CONDUCT OF KENO AND HIGH STAKES BINGO GAMES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 On and after July 1, 2003, each licensee conducting dog racing  
2 events under the pari-mutuel system may operate high stakes bingo  
3 games on the premises of each dog race track. On and after July 1,  
4 2003, each licensee conducting dog racing events or authorized to  
5 operate the system of off-track betting under the pari-mutuel system  
6 may operate keno games on the premises of each dog race track or off-  
7 track betting facility. Persons operating keno or high stakes bingo shall  
8 be licensed by the Division of Special Revenue. The license application  
9 fee and license renewal fee shall each be two hundred dollars. Each  
10 licensee conducting high stakes bingo or keno shall pay a tax on the  
11 total money wagered each day the licensee conducts high stakes bingo  
12 or keno. The tax rate on amounts wagered up to \$20,000,000 shall be  
13 3%; the tax rate on amounts wagered between \$20,000,001 and  
14 \$40,000,000 shall be 5%; the tax rate on total amounts wagered over  
15 \$40,000,000 shall be 7%. There shall also be a tax equal to one-half of  
16 the breakage to the dime resulting from such wagering. Using tax

17 revenues received from activities conducted pursuant to this section,  
18 the Department of Economic and Community Development shall  
19 provide a grant in the amount of five million dollars to the Northeast  
20 Connecticut Economic Alliance. Said funds shall be used by the  
21 Alliance to provide financial assistance to companies in Windham and  
22 Tolland counties that are unable to obtain financing through  
23 traditional means. In determining eligibility for financial assistance,  
24 the Alliance shall give preference to companies that would enhance  
25 existing industrial clusters, including plastics technology and  
26 manufacturing, medical device development, environmental  
27 technology development, information technology, fiber optics,  
28 shipping and distribution entertainment and tourism. At least seventy  
29 per cent of said funds shall be made available for direct loans. Direct  
30 loans provided to any one company shall be limited to fifty thousand  
31 dollars in any three-year period, provided that the Alliance, with the  
32 approval of a majority of its governing board, may increase the  
33 amount of direct loans to up to forty-five per cent of the company's  
34 finance package. For purposes of this act, "financial assistance" means  
35 the infusion of capital, in any form whatsoever including, but not  
36 limited to, grants, loans, equity, leases, guarantees, royalty  
37 arrangements and other risk capital.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To allow current licensees conducting dog racing and off-track betting to be licensed to conduct keno and high stakes bingo, which activities shall be taxed at a specified rate, and the proceeds of said tax shall be used, in part, to provide a grant to the Northeast Connecticut Economic Alliance for financial assistance to companies in Windham and Tolland counties that are unable to obtain financing through traditional means.