

Public Safety and Security Committee

Public Hearing Testimony

February 18, 2010

**S.B. 147 (RAISED) AN ACT PERMITTING "FIFTY-FIFTY" COUPON GAMES AT
CERTAIN ORGANIZATION FUNCTIONS AND ATHLETIC EVENTS.**

Testimony submitted by:
Division of Special Revenue

Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan, members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Paul Young, and I am the Executive Director of the Division of Special Revenue. I am here to address the Division's proposal on your agenda. I appreciate the Committee's consideration in raising this proposal and scheduling it for this hearing. This proposal relates to our charitable gaming program.

The Division's proposal is Raised Bill No. 147 titled '**An Act Permitting "Fifty-Fifty" Coupon Games at Certain Organization Functions and Athletic Events.**' It would amend the Bazaar and Raffle Law (Section 7-185a of the general statutes) so as to authorize a "fifty-fifty" special event permit for use in extending "fifty-fifty" coupon game fundraising conducted by qualified nonprofit organizations. As proposed, a "fifty-fifty" special event permit would be good for one year and would cost fifty dollars, with twenty-five dollars retained by the permit issuing municipality and twenty-five dollars remitted to the State.

A "fifty-fifty" coupon game can be conducted, legally, today, under a bazaar permit. However, the requisite permit would only be effective for each day of a permitted event (up to ten consecutive days), and an organization may only obtain two bazaar permits a year. Many organizations, for example, would want to conduct "fifty-fifty" activity at high school football games or other events throughout a season, in order to maximize their fundraising potential. The new type of permit authorized through this legislation would enable a qualifying organization to do that.

That concludes the testimony. I would be please to respond to question, if any.