

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 137

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 23, 2017

**Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Senator JIM WHELAN

District 2 (Atlantic)

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Senator Beck

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges United States President Trump, members of his administration, and Congress to oppose measures and actions to prohibit states from authorizing and conducting Internet gaming.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/23/2017)

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** urging United States President Donald  
2   Trump, members of President Trump’s administration, and  
3   Congress to oppose measures and actions which would prohibit  
4   states from authorizing and conducting Internet gaming.  
5  
6   **WHEREAS**, Internet gaming was authorized by law in New Jersey in  
7   2013 and has been lawfully implemented by several Atlantic City  
8   casinos in partnership with their Internet gaming affiliates under  
9   strict regulation and control by the State’s Division of Gaming  
10   Enforcement; and  
11   **WHEREAS**, Following its legalization in Nevada and Delaware, New  
12   Jersey’s enactment and implementation of Internet gaming has  
13   begun to yield benefits for the State’s economy, generating  
14   employment opportunities for the State’s residents, and tax  
15   revenues for the State’s coffers, and contributing to the revival of  
16   Atlantic City as a gaming hub; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, In 2016, Internet gaming in New Jersey generated about  
18   \$198 million in casino win, resulting in approximately \$29.5  
19   million in gaming tax revenues for the State; and  
20   **WHEREAS**, Recent federal measures, such as the “Restoration of  
21   America’s Wire Act” introduced in the 114th Congress, if pursued  
22   by the 115th Congress and supported by President Trump and his  
23   administration, would prohibit the transmission by wire  
24   communication of any bet or wager or of information assisting in  
25   the placement of any bet or wager, including Internet gaming; and  
26   **WHEREAS**, In his confirmation hearing as nominee for United States  
27   Attorney General, Senator Jeff Sessions indicated his desire to  
28   revisit the federal Justice Department ruling that currently allows  
29   the states to authorize Internet gaming; and  
30   **WHEREAS**, A federal prohibition against Internet gaming would  
31   directly and negatively impact New Jersey by dismantling the  
32   investments that the State and the casinos have already made,  
33   taking away the economic and employment opportunities already  
34   realized by the State and its residents, and foreclosing the future  
35   potential of Internet gaming to generate tens of millions of dollars  
36   in tax revenue, create high-tech software jobs, and foster valuable  
37   business ventures for Atlantic City casinos; and  
38   **WHEREAS**, The ability to conduct Internet gaming within each state  
39   under strict regulation and control by each state is fundamentally a  
40   matter of states’ rights, and eliminating New Jersey’s ability to  
41   continue to conduct Internet gaming would contradict the argument  
42   that states should be able to govern themselves; and  
43   **WHEREAS**, Enactment and implementation of measures and taking of  
44   any actions that prohibit Internet gaming would be inimical to the  
45   interests of this State, which has been at the forefront of a well-  
46   regulated casino gaming industry since the 1970s and which  
47   recognizes the benefits of Internet gaming and the future potential  
48   thereof; now, therefore,



**AJR137 MAZZEO**

1 Gaming Enforcement. A federal prohibition against Internet gaming  
2 would directly and negatively impact New Jersey by dismantling  
3 the investments that the State and Atlantic City casinos have  
4 already made to implement and regulate Internet gaming, taking  
5 away the economic and employment opportunities already realized  
6 by the State and its residents, and foreclosing the future potential of  
7 Internet gaming to generate tens of millions of dollars in tax  
8 revenue, create high-tech software jobs, and foster valuable  
9 business ventures for Atlantic City casinos in this State.