

ASSEMBLY, No. 579

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman LUSTBADER

1 AN ACT concerning the hours of operation of casinos and amending
2 P.L.1977, c.110.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 97 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-97) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 97. Hours of Operation. a. No casino licensed pursuant to this act
10 shall operate between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturdays,
11 Sundays and State and federal holidays, or between the hours of 4 a.m.
12 and 10 a.m. on all other days, except that the commission may extend
13 the hours of operation, up to and including 24 hours of operation, on
14 any Saturday, Sunday, or State or federal holiday, or on any day that
15 an extension of operating hours would, in the judgment of the
16 commission, have an economic impact on the casino industry and on
17 Atlantic City which would justify the extension of those hours. In
18 making this finding, the commission shall consider, among other
19 factors: (1) the anticipated volume of visitor, convention, or tourist
20 traffic in Atlantic City as a result of any scheduled meetings or events;
21 (2) any special promotions or market expansion programs undertaken
22 by the casino industry or others to increase such traffic; or (3) any
23 other basis for the conclusion that an extension of operating hours
24 would, under the circumstances, effect a significant impact on the
25 volume of casino business and thereby on the State revenues
26 dependent thereupon. The extension of operating hours to 24 hours
27 may be authorized for up to five continuous days other than Saturdays,
28 Sundays, and State or federal holidays, but in no case shall the number
29 of days with 24 hours of operation, including Saturdays, Sundays, and
30 State or federal holidays, exceed 12. Application to the commission
31 for the extension of operating hours shall not be made earlier than 30
32 days prior to the first day of any requested period of continuous days

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 of 24-hour casino operations which consists of or includes days other
2 than Saturdays, Sundays, and State or federal holidays, or, in the case
3 of a single day which is being requested, prior to that day. At least
4 two days with the specific operating hours authorized in this
5 subsection shall elapse between each period of more than three
6 continuous days, including Saturdays, Sundays and State and federal
7 holidays, of 24-hour casino operations. Any resolution approving an
8 extension of operating hours shall be considered at a regularly
9 scheduled meeting of the commission held pursuant to the "Open
10 Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.).

11 b. A casino licensee shall file with the commission a schedule of
12 hours prior to the issuance of an initial operation certificate. If the
13 casino licensee proposes any change in scheduled hours, such change
14 may not be effected until such licensee files a notice of the new
15 schedule of hours with the commission. Such filing must be made 30
16 days prior to the effective date of the proposed change in hours.

17 c. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit a casino licensee in
18 opening its casino later than, or closing its casino earlier than, the
19 times stated in its schedule of operating hours; provided, however, that
20 any such alterations in its hours shall comply with the provisions of
21 subsection a. of this section and with regulations of the commission
22 pertaining to such alterations.

23 (cf: P.L.1992, c.36, s.1)

24

25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

26

27

28

STATEMENT

29

30 This bill places limits on the operation of 24-hour gambling. The
31 Casino Control Commission may extend the operating hours of casinos
32 to 24 hours for up to five continuous days other than Saturdays,
33 Sundays, and State or federal holidays, but in no case shall the number
34 of days with 24 hours of operation, including Saturdays, Sundays, and
35 State or federal holidays, exceed 12. Application to the commission
36 for the extension of operating hours shall not be made earlier than 30
37 days prior to the first day of any requested period of continuous days
38 of 24-hour casino operations which consists of or includes days other
39 than Saturdays, Sundays, and State or federal holidays, or, in the case
40 of a single day which is being requested, prior to that day. At least
41 two days with the specific operating hours authorized in the "Casino
42 Control Act," P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-1 et seq.), shall elapse between
43 each period of more than three continuous days of 24-hour casino
44 operations.

- 1 _____
- 2
- 3 Places limits on operation of 24-hour gambling.