

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 FOR

3 **Senate Bill No. 656**

4 (By Senators Snyder, Fitzsimmons, Yost, Prezioso and Stollings)

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6 [Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;

7 reported April 1, 2013.]

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10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
11 adding thereto a new section, designated §29-22A-20, relating  
12 to establishing a gaming industry special study committee to  
13 assess problems facing the gaming industry in West Virginia.

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

15 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended  
16 by adding thereto a new section, designated §29-22A-20, to read as  
17 follows:

18 **ARTICLE 22A. RACETRACK VIDEO LOTTERY.**

19 **§29-22A-20. Establishment of gaming industry special study**  
20 **committee.**

21 (a) The gaming industry in West Virginia has been subject to  
22 increasing competitive pressure as the neighboring states of Ohio,  
23 Pennsylvania and Maryland have sought to increase tax revenues by  
24 expanding gaming activities in their states. For years West  
25 Virginia benefitted from gaming facilities in our eastern and

1 northern panhandles which drew residents from border states that  
2 had few gambling options. But with growing casino operations in  
3 Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland, that advantage has markedly  
4 declined, threatening our gaming industry and the state tax  
5 revenues which are realized from our gaming industry.

6 (b) There is created a gaming industry special study committee  
7 to assess the issues facing the gaming industry and to offer  
8 recommendations to address the problems identified by the  
9 committee. The gaming industry special study committee is comprised  
10 of the following members:

11 (1) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of  
12 the Senate;

13 (2) Three members of the House of Delegates appointed by the  
14 Speaker of the House of Delegates;

15 (3) Two members from the office of the Racing Commission  
16 appointed by the Governor;

17 (4) Two members from the office of the Lottery Commission  
18 appointed by the Governor; and

19 (5) One member from the Governor's Office appointed by the  
20 Governor.

21 (c) The gaming industry special study committee shall report  
22 to the Legislature its findings, conclusions, recommendations and  
23 proposed legislation on January 1, 2015.

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(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a gaming industry

special study committee to assess problems facing the gaming industry in West Virginia and to make recommendations to the Legislature on January 1, 2015.

This section is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.)