

Senate Bill No. 656

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

[Introduced March 25, 2013; referred to the Committee on the
Judiciary.]

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

1 expanding gaming activities in their states. For years West
2 Virginia benefitted from gaming facilities in our eastern and
3 northern panhandles which drew residents from border states that
4 had few gambling options. But with growing casino operations in
5 Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland, that advantage has markedly
6 declined, threatening our gaming industry and the state tax
7 revenues which are realized from our gaming industry.

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

13 (1) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of
14 the Senate;

15 (2) Three members of the House of Delegates appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House of Delegates;

17 (3) Two members of the Racing Commission appointed by the
18 Governor;

19 (4) Two members of the Lottery Commission appointed by the
20 Governor; and

21 (5) One member from the Governor's Office appointed by the
22 Governor.

23 (c) The gaming industry special study committee shall report
24 to the Legislature its findings, conclusions and recommendations on

1 January 1, 2015.

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.