

[Click to Print](#)[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Posted on Mon, Sep. 21, 2009

Letters: Rep. DeWeese begs to differ on gambling edit

Philadelphia Daily News

IMUST respectfully disagree with your Sept. 15 editorial "*Table Games Get Added to State Budget Battle.*" As the legislator you call the "biggest proponent" of table games, I offer the following:

* The average Pennsylvanian, faced with a choice between higher sales and income taxes or legalizing table games, would choose table games.

* Casino operators will gladly pay a onetime license fee of \$15 million for the chance to make hundreds of millions (if not billions over the life of a facility), so there's no question that badly needed revenue will flow this year. Also, the revenue estimates we've cited are from the Innovation Group, a New Jersey company known worldwide for its gaming projections. When we drafted the original slots law in 2004, the Innovation Group made revenue estimates that proved very accurate.

* The study cited in your editorial about falling revenues at casinos shows Pennsylvania outside those trends. Each year during the past two years, our casinos have provided more than \$600 million in property and wage-tax relief for homeowners.

* Your claim of a lack of public input on this issue is misguided. My original legislation introduced in July 2007 faced two public hearings - and two additional hearings, with input from all stakeholders, were held on my current table games legislation (House Bill 21) introduced in June. Your editorial correctly notes that a Senate hearing was scheduled this week on the issue.

Just as the state General Assembly worked with Philadelphia to raise its sales tax to ameliorate its own financial crisis, I'm calling on my fellow legislators to support table games at state casinos to address a statewide financial crisis.

Bill DeWeese

Pa. House Majority Whip

The rules of school enrollment

Re Barbara Kennedy's Sept. 14 letter "*What's Wrong with This Picture?*" relating her daughter's difficulties enrolling her son in a Philadelphia public school:

Unfortunately, each year, parents are turned away from registration, and children are prevented from attending school, not because they fail to meet enrollment requirements but because school personnel are violating state law or district policies.

The procedure is clear: Families must provide proof they live in the school district, proof of the child's age, proof of immunization and a signed "registration statement" about the child's discipline record. Given these things, schools must enroll the child within five school days. No exceptions.

School personnel cannot ask to see photo ID, a notarized copy of your lease, or - as has happened in some school districts - your marriage license before enrolling your child.

We continue to hear from families struggling to enroll a child in school, and while school has resumed for most students, some remain shut out. It's worth remembering that we have the power to open those doors.

School should be challenging - enrolling in school shouldn't be.

Janet Stotland, Co-Director

Education Law Center

Amanda Bergson-Shilcock


Director of Intake and Operations

Welcoming Center

for New Pennsylvanians

Find this article at:

http://www.philly.com/philly/opinion/20090921_Letters__Rep__DeWeese_begs_to_differ_on_gambling_edit.html

 **Click to Print**

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

© Copyright | Philly Online, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Any copying, redistribution or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the express written consent of Philly Online, LLC is expressly prohibited.

