

The State of Gambling in Florida!

December 8, 2011 (Tallahassee, FL)—The Florida Senate Regulated Industries committee and the Florida House Business and Community Affairs sub-committee held workshops on gaming in Florida this week.

The Senate heard testimony regarding **Senate Bill 710** which among other things provides for up to three destination resorts (casinos). The workshop was heated at times as the public and committee members voiced their support or opposition to the proposed bill. **One thing was clear, as a result of the workshop—there is still a lot of work to do if this bill is going to pass the full Senate.**

Much of the conversation revolved around the expansion of gambling and concerns for turning the State of Florida into a gambling state. Senator Bogdanoff, the bill's sponsor, pointed out that **Florida is already the 4th largest gambling state in the country**. Her point was that gambling is already here to a great extent, and she believes this bill would help regulate and control the wide variety of gambling that Florida currently has.

The House Business and Community Affairs sub-committee hosted a workshop which would seem to confirm Senator Bogdanoff's claim. The committee staff attorney offered a presentation which outlined the state of gambling in Florida today. Some may be aware already, but I think **most will be very surprised to learn how much legal gambling goes on today in Florida:**

- › Penny Ante Games; Poker, Bridge, Dominoes
- › Charitable Drawings
- › Bingo
- › Arcades (*games of skill*)
- › Game Promotions
- › Cruises To Nowhere
- › Florida Lottery
- › Seminole Indian Gaming: Bingo, Slot Machines, Banked Card Games
- › Pari-Mutuel Wagering (*28 Locations*)
 - Greyhound Racing Tracks
 - Harness Racing Tracks
 - Jai Alai Frontons
 - Quarterhorse Racing Tracks
 - Thoroughbred Racing Tracks
 - Card Rooms (*Seminole County is the only pari-mutuel county without card rooms*)
 - Slot Machines
 - Barrel Racing Tracks

- ▶ 17 Dormant and Pending Pari- Mutuel Wagering Permits (*could be activated under the proper circumstances*)
- ▶ Summer Jai Alai Permits (*three pending in Miami Dade And Broward Counties*)
- ▶ Internet Cafes (*approximately 1,000 currently*)
- ▶ Reel Stop Machines (*skill-based arcade*)(450 locations)

What's next? Stay tuned.

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