

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COMFORT INN, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 30 – MAY 1, 2022**

Resolution No. 1135

Submitted by William Whitmoyer
Legislative Committee Chairman

- WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Act 118 of 2020 was enacted on November 25, 2020 to provide financial relief to charitable clubs and service organizations with Small Games of Chance licenses, by allowing them to use 100% of proceeds from Small Games of Chance for internal operational expenses, rather than the standard 40%, during the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration and a period of 365 days after the termination of the Emergency Declaration; and
- WHEREAS, These organizations are the backbone of our communities, providing a place for our Veterans to congregate, supporting many local charities, and funding many local community projects; and
- WHEREAS, The citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania voted to give the ability to end the Emergency Declaration back to the General Assembly on May 18, 2021; and
- WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania voted on June 10, 2021 to end the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration; and
- WHEREAS, The COVID-19 Emergency Declaration formally ended on June 15, 2021 with the certification of the results of the May 2021 elections; and
- WHEREAS, The time period for these organizations to use 100% of Small Games proceeds will end in June 2022, but the reporting period extends until December 31, 2022, aligned with the calendar year; and
- WHEREAS, Many of these organizations still have not fully recovered from the impact of the pandemic, and still struggle to make ends meet; and
- WHEREAS, The interim between the use of, and the reporting of, these funds will likely cause undue confusion, errors and unintended infractions in reporting, and additional stress to the primarily volunteer administrators of these organizations and to the personnel receiving and filing the reports within the Department of Revenue; and
- WHEREAS, The errors and inadvertent infractions caused by the confusion in the interim period may cause an additional, burdensome work load for the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement, causing an unnecessary additional cost to the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS, Extending the deadline to use 100% of Small Games of Chance proceeds to match the reporting period will give these vital service organizations more time to recover and keep their doors open to remain an integral part of our communities,

and alleviate stress, confusion, and potential errors for their administrators, and Department of Revenue workers, and avoid creating extra work load for the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, In view of the foregoing, we, the membership of The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania, respectfully petition the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to develop and pass legislation to extend the deadline for the provisions of Act 118 of 2020 to December 31, 2022, and the Governor of Pennsylvania to enact said legislation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania in regular meeting assembled at the Comfort Inn RIDC Park, Pittsburgh, PA, April 29 to May 1, 2022, affirms support from The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania for legislation that extends the deadline of Act 118 of 2020 allowing charitable clubs and service organizations to use 100% of Small Games of Chance proceeds to cover general operating expenses during the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration to December 31, 2022 in order to give these vital service organizations more time to recover and keep their doors open to remain an integral part of our communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania urges the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to then expeditiously pass such legislation and present it to the Governor for signature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania urges the Governor of Pennsylvania to then expediently enact this legislation by signature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all members of both chambers of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and the leadership of the member organizations of the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Westerman Wolf.

APPROVED REJECTED _____ REFERRED _____ CONSOLIDATED _____ FILED _____