

Senate Resolution 249

By: Senator Beach of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to
 2 provide by law for the local authorization of a limited number of licensed destination resort
 3 facilities casino resorts within the state; to authorize the operation and regulation of limited
 4 casino gaming within the state; to provide for related matters; to provide for the submission
 5 of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 SECTION 1.

8 Article I, Section II, Paragraph VIII of the Constitution is amended by adding new
 9 subparagraphs to read as follows:

10 "(e) The General Assembly may provide by law for the operation and regulation of
 11 limited casino gaming in this state at licensed destination resort facilities. The General
 12 Assembly may by law define a licensed destination resort facility; provide for the operation
 13 and regulation of such facilities; establish a licensing framework for such facilities; limit
 14 the total number of such facilities within this state in its discretion, provided that no more
 15 than six such facilities shall be licensed at any given time; and otherwise provide for any
 16 other matters relating to the purposes or provisions of this subparagraph and
 17 subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph. Notwithstanding the contents of this subparagraph and
 18 subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph, all other forms of casino gaming shall remain
 19 prohibited in this state, and this prohibition shall be enforced by penal laws. The General
 20 Assembly's limitation and regulation of casino gaming licenses within this state shall not
 21 be subject to Article III, Section IV, Paragraph V(c) of the Constitution.

22 (f) The General Assembly shall provide by law that proceeds derived from the licensing,
 23 regulation, and taxation of casino gaming at licensed destination resort facilities in this
 24 state shall be used for educational programs and educational purposes as hereinafter
 25 provided, for the payment of operating expenses associated with the state's designated
 26 regulatory body for casino gaming, and for programs for the prevention and treatment of
 27 compulsive and addictive gambling. The revenues and proceeds derived from the

28 licensing, regulation, and taxation of casino gaming at licensed destination resort facilities
 29 in this state shall not be subject to Article III, Section IX, Paragraph IV(c); Article III,
 30 Section IX, Paragraph VI(a); or Article VII, Section III, Paragraph II of the Constitution.
 31 Revenues and proceeds derived from the licensing, regulation, and taxation of casino
 32 gaming at licensed destination resort facilities in this state shall be separately accounted for
 33 and shall be specifically identified by the Governor in his or her annual budget presented
 34 to the General Assembly as a separate budget category entitled 'Casino Gaming Proceeds,'
 35 and the Governor shall make specific recommendations as to the programs and purposes
 36 for which such revenues and proceeds shall be appropriated. In the General Appropriations
 37 Act adopted by the General Assembly, the General Assembly shall appropriate all revenues
 38 and proceeds derived from the licensing, regulation, and taxation of casino gaming at
 39 licensed destination resort facilities in this state by such separate category to educational
 40 programs and educational purposes and to the payment of the operational expenses of the
 41 state's designated regulatory body for casino gaming, which may include the expenses of
 42 programs for the prevention and treatment of compulsive and addictive gambling.
 43 Revenues and proceeds dedicated to supporting educational programs and educational
 44 purposes shall be used to supplement, not supplant, noncasino gaming educational
 45 resources for educational programs and educational purposes. The educational programs
 46 and educational purposes for which proceeds may be so appropriated shall include only
 47 tuition grants, scholarships, or loans to citizens of this state to enable such citizens to attend
 48 colleges and universities located within this state, regardless of whether such colleges and
 49 universities are operated by the board of regents, or to attend institutions operated under
 50 the authority of the Department of Technical and Adult Education. Revenues and proceeds
 51 dedicated to funding the operational expenses of the state's designated regulatory body for
 52 casino gaming may be appropriated as provided by law by the General Assembly."

53 **SECTION 2.**

54 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as
 55 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the
 56 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

57 "() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to preserve the
 58 () NO long-term financial stability of the HOPE scholarship program and to
 59 support other scholarship programs through net tax and licensing revenues
 60 generated by permitting the establishment of licensed destination resort
 61 facilities where casino gaming is permitted?"

62 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

63 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If

64 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
65 become a part of the Constitution of this state.