

House Bill 976

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th and Smyre of the 135th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 lottery for education, so as to establish the State Gaming Commission; to provide for its
3 membership, manner of appointment, terms of office, duties, and responsibilities; to provide
4 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to lottery for
8 education, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

9 "ARTICLE 4

10 50-27-120.

11 (a) There is created the State Gaming Commission.

12 (b) Such commission shall consist of 15 members. Five members shall be appointed by
13 the Governor, five members shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and five
14 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The members
15 shall be registered electors in this state and shall not have been convicted of any felony
16 under the laws of the United States, this state, or any of the several states.

17 (c) Of the members appointed by the Governor, the Governor, at the time of the
18 appointment of the initial members, shall designate one member to serve a five-year term
19 of office, one member to serve a four-year term of office, one member to serve a three-year
20 term of office, one member to serve a two-year term of office, and one member to serve
21 a one-year term of office.

22 (d) Of the members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, at
23 the time of the appointment of the initial members, shall designate one member to serve a
24 five-year term of office, one member to serve a four-year term of office, one member to

25 serve a three-year term of office, one member to serve a two-year term of office, and one
 26 member to serve a one-year term of office.

27 (e) Of the members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
 28 Speaker, at the time of the appointment of the initial members, shall designate one member
 29 to serve a five-year term of office, one member to serve a four-year term of office, one
 30 member to serve a three-year term of office, one member to serve a two-year term of
 31 office, and one member to serve a one-year term of office.

32 (f) After the initial terms of office, successors to such members shall be appointed by the
 33 original appointing authority for five-year terms of office.

34 (g) The commission shall elect from its number a chairperson and a vice chairperson. The
 35 commission shall also elect a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

36 (h) The members of the commission shall not receive compensation for their work on the
 37 commission but, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly, shall be reimbursed for
 38 actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses incurred while performing their duties as
 39 members of the commission.

40 (i) Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by appointment of the original appointing
 41 authority for the unexpired term of office.

42 (j) The commission shall meet on the call of its chairperson.

43

44 50-27-121.

45 (a) The State Gaming Commission shall undertake a study of the feasibility, practicality,
 46 and appropriateness of the gaming industry in Georgia to include casino gaming and other
 47 forms of gaming. The commission shall also study the best use of funds derived from the
 48 taxation, licensing, and regulation of such activities, including providing financial stability
 49 to the HOPE scholarship programs.

50 (b) Not later than January 10 of each year, the commission shall report to the Governor,
 51 the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on its activities
 52 and any findings and recommendations it may have for legislation.

53 (c) Subject to appropriation by the General Assembly, the commission shall be authorized
 54 to hire staff members and experts in the area of gaming to assist the commission in its
 55 study."

56

SECTION 2.

57 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.