

Senate Resolution 131

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Harbison of the 15th, Miller of the 49th, Hickman of the 4th, Rhett of the 33rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to
2 provide by law for pari-mutuel betting on horse racing; to provide for the disposition of
3 licensing and taxation revenues from such activities; to provide for related matters; to
4 provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other
5 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 a new
9 subparagraph to read as follows:

10 "(e) The General Assembly may provide by law for the operation and regulation of
11 pari-mutuel betting on horse racing. The General Assembly may by law provide for the
12 operation, location, and regulation of racetracks and betting facilities; establish a licensing
13 framework for such racetracks and facilities; limit the total number of such facilities within
14 this state in its discretion; and otherwise provide for any other matters relating to the
15 purposes or provisions of this subparagraph. Notwithstanding the contents of this
16 subparagraph, all other forms of gambling shall remain prohibited in this state, and this
17 prohibition shall be enforced by penal laws. The General Assembly's limitation and

18 regulation of pari-mutuel betting on horse racing at licensed racetracks and betting facilities
19 in this state shall not be subject to Article III, Section VI, Paragraph V(c) of this
20 Constitution. The General Assembly shall provide by law that the revenues and proceeds
21 derived from the licensing, regulation, and taxation of pari-mutuel betting on horse racing
22 at licensed racetracks and betting facilities in this state shall be used for the payment of
23 operating expenses associated with the state's designated regulatory body for horse racing
24 and pari-mutuel betting, for programs for the prevention and treatment of compulsive and
25 addictive gambling, and for education, health care, and rural development programs in this
26 state. The revenues and proceeds derived from the licensing, regulation, and taxation of
27 pari-mutuel betting on horse racing at licensed racetracks and betting facilities in this state
28 shall not be subject to Article III, Section IX, Paragraph IV(c); Article III, Section IX,
29 Paragraph VI(a); or Article VII, Section III, Paragraph II of the Constitution. Such
30 revenues and proceeds shall be separately accounted for and shall be specifically identified
31 by the Governor in his or her annual budget presented to the General Assembly as a
32 separate budget category entitled 'Pari-mutuel Betting Proceeds,' and the Governor shall
33 make specific recommendations as to the programs and purposes for which such revenues
34 and proceeds shall be appropriated. In the General Appropriations Act adopted by the
35 General Assembly, the General Assembly shall appropriate such revenues and proceeds by
36 such separate category to the purposes authorized in this subparagraph and to the payment
37 of the operational expenses of the state's designated regulatory body for horse racing and
38 pari-mutuel betting, which may include the expenses of programs for the prevention and
39 treatment of compulsive and addictive gambling, and for education, health care, and rural
40 development programs in this state. Revenues and proceeds dedicated to authorized
41 purposes under this subparagraph shall be used to supplement, not supplant, non-horse
42 racing and pari-mutuel betting resources for such purposes. Revenues and proceeds
43 dedicated to funding the operational expenses of the state's designated regulatory body for

44 horse racing and pari-mutuel betting may be appropriated as provided by law by the
45 General Assembly."

46 SECTION 2.

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

50 "() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize pari-mutuel
51 () NO betting on horse racing in the State of Georgia?"

52 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."
53 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
54 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
55 become a part of the Constitution of this state.