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SENATE BILL NO. 756**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the Joint Conference Committee

on March 13, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Surovell)

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-4032, 58.1-4100, 58.1-4101, 58.1-4107, 58.1-4107.1, 58.1-4109, 58.1-4110, 58.1-4111, 58.1-4123, and 58.1-4125 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 30-310.2, relating to casino gaming; eligible host localities; temporary casino licensure process; sunset.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 58.1-4032, 58.1-4100, 58.1-4101, 58.1-4107, 58.1-4107.1, 58.1-4109, 58.1-4110, 58.1-4111, 58.1-4123, and 58.1-4125 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 30-310.2 as follows:

§ 58.1-4032. Application for a sports betting permit; penalty.

A. An applicant for a sports betting permit shall:

1. Submit an application to the Director, on forms prescribed by the Director, containing the information prescribed in subsection B; and

2. Pay to the Department a nonrefundable fee of \$50,000 for each principal at the time of filing to defray the costs associated with the background investigations conducted by the Department. If the reasonable costs of the investigation exceed the application fee, the applicant shall pay the additional amount to the Department. The Board may establish regulations calculating the reasonable costs to the Department in performing its functions under this article and allocating such costs to the applicants for licensure at the time of filing. The fees for each principal and any additional investigation costs paid to the Department shall be deposited into the Gaming Regulatory Fund established pursuant to § 58.1-4048.

B. An application for a sports betting permit shall include the following information:

1. The applicant's background in sports betting;

2. The applicant's experience in wagering activities in other jurisdictions, including the applicant's history and reputation of integrity and compliance;

3. The applicant's proposed internal controls, including controls to ensure that no prohibited or voluntarily excluded person will be able to participate in sports betting;

4. The applicant's history of working to prevent compulsive gambling, including training programs for its employees;

5. If applicable, any supporting documentation necessary to establish eligibility for substantial and preferred consideration pursuant to the provisions of this section;

6. The applicant's proposed procedures to detect and report suspicious or illegal betting activity; and

7. Any other information the Director deems necessary.

C. The Department shall conduct a background investigation on the applicant. The background investigation shall include a credit history check, a tax record check, and a criminal history records check.

D. 1. The Director shall not issue any permit pursuant to this article until the Board has established a consumer protection program and published a consumer protection bill of rights pursuant to the provisions of subdivision A 14 of § 58.1-4007.

2. The Director shall issue no fewer than four and no more than 12 permits pursuant to this section; however, if an insufficient number of applicants apply for the Director to satisfy the minimum, this provision shall not be interpreted to direct the Director to issue a permit to an unqualified applicant. A permit shall not count toward the minimum or maximum if it (i) is issued pursuant to subdivision 4 or 5 to a major league sports franchise or to the operator of a facility; (ii) is issued pursuant to subdivision 6 to an applicant that operates or intends to operate a casino gaming establishment; or (iii) is revoked, expires, or otherwise becomes not effective.

3. In issuing permits to operate sports betting platforms and sports betting facilities, the Director shall consider the following factors:

a. The contents of the applicant's application as required by subsection B;

b. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates past experience, financial viability, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and success with sports betting operations in other states;

c. The extent to which the applicant will be able to meet the duties of a permit holder, as specified in § 58.1-4034;

d. Whether the applicant has demonstrated to the Department that it has made serious, good-faith efforts to solicit and interview a reasonable number of investors that are minority individuals, as defined in § 2.2-1604;

e. The amount of adjusted gross revenue and associated tax revenue that an applicant is expected to

60 generate;

61 f. The effect of issuing an additional permit on the amount of gross revenue and associated tax revenue
62 generated by all existing permit holders, considered in the aggregate; and

63 g. Any other factor the Director considers relevant.

64 4. In issuing permits to operate sports betting platforms prior to July 1, 2025, the Director shall give
65 substantial and preferred consideration to any applicant that is a major league sports franchise headquartered
66 in the Commonwealth that remitted personal state income tax withholdings based on taxable wages in the
67 Commonwealth in excess of \$200 million for the 2019 taxable year. Any permit holder granted a permit
68 pursuant to this subdivision shall receive substantial and preferred consideration of its first, second, and third
69 applications for renewal pursuant to the provisions of § 58.1-4033; however, such permit holder shall not
70 receive substantial and preferred consideration of its fourth and subsequent applications for renewal. Any
71 permit granted pursuant to this subdivision shall expire if the permit holder ceases to maintain its
72 headquarters in the Commonwealth.

73 5. In issuing permits to operate sports betting platforms prior to July 1, 2025, the Director shall give
74 substantial and preferred consideration to any applicant that is a major league sports franchise that plays five
75 or more regular season games per year at a facility in the Commonwealth or that is the operator of a facility in
76 the Commonwealth where a major league sports franchise plays five or more regular season games per year;
77 however, the Director shall give such substantial and preferred consideration only if the applicant (i) is
78 headquartered in the Commonwealth, (ii) has an annualized payroll for taxable wages in the Commonwealth
79 that is in excess of \$10 million over the 90-day period prior to the application date, and (iii) the total number
80 of individuals working at the facility in the Commonwealth where the major league sports franchise plays
81 five or more regular season games is in excess of 100.

82 6. If casino gaming is authorized under the laws of the Commonwealth, then in issuing permits to operate
83 sports betting platforms and sports betting facilities, the Director shall give substantial and preferred
84 consideration to any applicant that (i) has made or intends to make a capital investment of at least \$300
85 million in a casino gaming establishment, including the value of the real property upon which such
86 establishment is located and all furnishings, fixtures, and other improvements; (ii) has had its name submitted
87 as a preferred casino gaming operator to the Department by an eligible host ~~city~~ locality; and (iii) has been
88 certified by the Department to proceed to a local referendum on whether casino gaming will be allowed in the
89 locality in which the applicant intends to operate a casino gaming establishment.

90 7. In issuing permits to operate sports betting platforms prior to July 1, 2025, the Director shall give
91 substantial and preferred consideration to any applicant that demonstrates in its application (i) a description of
92 any equity interest owned by minority individuals or minority-owned businesses, (ii) a detailed plan to
93 achieve increased minority equity investment, (iii) a description of all efforts made to seek equity investment
94 from minority individuals or minority-owned businesses, or (iv) a plan detailing efforts made to solicit
95 participation of minority individuals or minority-owned businesses in the applicant's purchase of goods and
96 services related to the sports betting platform or to provide assistance to a historically disadvantaged
97 community or historically black colleges and universities located within the Commonwealth. As used in this
98 subdivision, "historically black colleges and universities," "minority individual," and "minority-owned
99 business" mean the same as those terms are defined in § 2.2-1604.

100 8. In a manner as may be required by Board regulation, any entity that applies pursuant to subdivision 4,
101 5, 6, or 7 may demonstrate compliance with the requirements of an application, the duties of a permit holder,
102 and any other provision of this article through the use of a partner, subcontractor, or other affiliate of the
103 applicant.

104 E. The Director shall make a determination on an initial application for a sports betting permit within 90
105 days of receipt. The Director's action shall be final unless appealed in accordance with § 58.1-4007.

106 F. The following shall be grounds for denial of a permit or renewal of a permit:

107 1. The Director reasonably believes the applicant will be unable to satisfy the duties of a permit holder as
108 described in subsection A of § 58.1-4034;

109 2. The Director reasonably believes that the applicant or its directors lack good character, honesty, or
110 integrity;

111 3. The Director reasonably believes that the applicant's prior activities, criminal record, reputation, or
112 associations are likely to (i) pose a threat to the public interest, (ii) impede the regulation of sports betting, or
113 (iii) promote unfair or illegal activities in the conduct of sports betting;

114 4. The applicant or its directors knowingly make a false statement of material fact or deliberately fail to
115 disclose information requested by the Director;

116 5. The applicant or its directors knowingly fail to comply with the provisions of this article or any
117 requirements of the Director;

118 6. The applicant or its directors were convicted of a felony, a crime of moral turpitude, or any criminal
119 offense involving dishonesty or breach of trust within the 10 years prior to the submission date of the permit
120 application;

121 7. The applicant's license, registration, or permit to conduct a sports betting operation issued by any other

122 jurisdiction has been suspended or revoked;

123 8. The applicant defaults in payment of any obligation or debt due to the Commonwealth; or

124 9. The applicant's application is incomplete.

125 G. The Director shall have the discretion to waive any of the grounds for denial of a permit or renewal of
126 a permit if he determines that denial would limit the number of applicants or permit holders in a manner
127 contrary to the best interests of the Commonwealth.

128 H. Prior to issuance of a permit, each permit holder shall either (i) be bonded by a surety company entitled
129 to do business in the Commonwealth in such amount and penalty as may be prescribed by the regulations of
130 the Board or (ii) provide other surety, letter of credit, or reserve as may be satisfactory to the Director. Such
131 surety shall be prescribed by Board regulations and shall not exceed a reasonable amount.

132 I. Any person who knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or misrepresents a material fact or
133 knowingly and willfully makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in any application
134 pursuant to this article is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

135 J. In addition to the fee required pursuant to subdivision A 2, any applicant to which the Department
136 issues a permit shall pay a nonrefundable fee of \$250,000 to the Department prior to the issuance of such
137 permit. Such fees shall be deposited by the Department into the Gaming Regulatory Fund established
138 pursuant to § 58.1-4048.

139 **§ 58.1-4100. Definitions.**

140 As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

141 "Adjusted gross receipts" means the gross receipts from casino gaming less winnings paid to winners.

142 "Board" means the Virginia Lottery Board established in the Virginia Lottery Law (§ 58.1-4000 et seq.).

143 "Casino gaming" or "game" means baccarat, blackjack, twenty-one, poker, craps, dice, slot machines,
144 roulette wheels, Klondike tables, Mah Jongg, electronic table games, hybrid table games, punchboards, faro
145 layouts, numbers tickets, push cards, jar tickets, or pull tabs, or any variation of the aforementioned games,
146 and any other activity that is authorized by the Board as a wagering game or device under this chapter.
147 "Casino gaming" or "game" includes on-premises mobile casino gaming.

148 "Casino gaming establishment" means the premises, including the entire property, *such as a conference*
149 *center, hotel, or entertainment district or large-scale concert venue*, located at the address of the licensed
150 casino, upon which lawful casino gaming is authorized and licensed as provided in this chapter. "Casino
151 gaming establishment" does not include a riverboat or similar vessel.

152 "Casino gaming operator" means any person issued a license by the Board to operate a casino gaming
153 establishment.

154 "Cheat" means to alter the selection criteria that determine the result of a game or the amount or frequency
155 of payment in a game for the purpose of obtaining an advantage for one or more participants in a game over
156 other participants in a game.

157 "Counter check" means an interest-free negotiable instrument for a specified amount executed by a player
158 and held by the casino that serves as evidence of the casino gaming patron's obligation to pay the casino and
159 that can be exchanged by the casino gaming patron for the specified amount in chips, tokens, credits,
160 electronic credits, electronic cash, or electronic cards.

161 "Department" means the independent agency responsible for the administration of the Virginia Lottery
162 created in the Virginia Lottery Law (§ 58.1-4000 et seq.).

163 "Director" means the Director of the Virginia Lottery.

164 "Eligible host ~~city~~ *locality*" means any ~~city~~ *locality* described in § 58.1-4107 in which a casino gaming
165 establishment is authorized to be located.

166 "Entity" means a person that is not a natural person.

167 "Gaming operation" means the conduct of authorized casino gaming within a casino gaming
168 establishment.

169 "Gross receipts" means the total amount of money exchanged for the purchase of chips, tokens, electronic
170 credits, electronic cash, or electronic cards by casino gaming patrons. "Gross receipts" ~~shall~~ *does* not include
171 the cash value of promotions or credits provided to and exchanged by casino gaming patrons for chips,
172 tokens, electronic credits, electronic cash, or electronic cards. "Gross receipts" ~~shall~~ *also does* not include
173 uncollectable counter checks.

174 "Immediate family" means (i) a spouse and (ii) any other person residing in the same household as an
175 officer or employee and who is a dependent of the officer or employee or of whom the officer or employee is
176 a dependent.

177 "Individual" means a natural person.

178 "Licensee" or "license holder" means any person holding an operator's license under § 58.1-4111.

179 "On-premises mobile casino gaming" means casino gaming offered by a casino gaming operator at a
180 casino gaming establishment using a computer network of both federal and nonfederal interoperable packet-
181 switched data networks through which the casino gaming operator may offer casino gaming to individuals
182 who have established an on-premises mobile casino gaming account with the casino gaming operator and
183 who are physically present on the premises of the casino gaming establishment, as authorized by regulations

184 promulgated by the Board.

185 "Permit holder" means any person holding a supplier or service permit pursuant to this chapter.

186 "Person" means an individual, partnership, joint venture, association, limited liability company, stock
187 corporation, or nonstock corporation and includes any person that directly or indirectly controls or is under
188 common control with another person.

189 "Preferred casino gaming operator" means the proposed casino gaming establishment and operator thereof
190 submitted by an eligible host ~~city~~ *locality* to the Board as an applicant for licensure.

191 "Prepaid access instrument" means a system device that allows a casino gaming patron access to funds
192 that have been paid in advance and can be retrieved or transferred at some point in the future through such a
193 device. In order to transfer funds for gaming purposes, a prepaid access instrument shall be redeemed for
194 tokens, chips, credits, electronic credits, electronic cash, electronic cards, or used in conjunction with an
195 approved cashless wagering system or interactive gaming account.

196 "Principal" means any individual who solely or together with his immediate family members (i) owns or
197 controls, directly or indirectly, five percent or more of the pecuniary interest in any entity that is a licensee or
198 (ii) has the power to vote or cause the vote of five percent or more of the voting securities or other ownership
199 interests of such entity, and any person who manages a gaming operation on behalf of a licensee.

200 "Professional sports" means the same as ~~such that~~ term is defined in § 58.1-4030.

201 "Security" has the same meaning as provided in § 13.1-501. If the Board finds that any obligation, stock,
202 or other equity interest creates control of or voice in the management operations of an entity in the manner of
203 a security, then such interest shall be considered a security.

204 "Sports betting" means the same as ~~such that~~ term is defined in § 58.1-4030.

205 "Sports betting facility" means an area, kiosk, or device located inside a casino gaming establishment
206 licensed pursuant to this chapter that is designated for sports betting.

207 "Supplier" means any person that sells or leases, or contracts to sell or lease, any casino gaming
208 equipment, devices, or supplies, or provides any management services, to a licensee.

209 "Voluntary exclusion program" means a program established by the Board pursuant to § 58.1-4103 that
210 allows individuals to voluntarily exclude themselves from engaging in the activities described in subdivision
211 B 1 of § 58.1-4103 by placing their names on a voluntary exclusion list and following the procedures set forth
212 by the Board.

213 "Youth sports" means the same as ~~such that~~ term is defined in § 58.1-4030.

214 **§ 58.1-4101. Regulation and control of casino gaming; limitation.**

215 A. Casino gaming shall be licensed and permitted as herein provided to benefit the people of the
216 Commonwealth. The Board is vested with control of all casino gaming in the Commonwealth, with authority
217 to prescribe regulations and conditions under this chapter. The purposes of this chapter are to assist economic
218 development, promote tourism, and provide for the implementation of casino gaming operations of the
219 highest quality, honesty, and integrity and free of any corrupt, incompetent, dishonest, or unprincipled
220 practices.

221 B. The conduct of casino gaming shall be limited to the qualified locations established in § 58.1-4107.
222 The Board shall be limited to the issuance of a single operator's license for each such qualified location.

223 C. The conduct of any casino gaming and entrance to such establishment is a privilege that may be
224 granted or denied by the Board or its duly authorized representatives in its discretion in order to effectuate the
225 purposes set forth in this chapter. Any proposed site for a casino gaming establishment shall be privately
226 owned property subject to the local land use and property taxation authority of the eligible host ~~city~~ *locality*
227 in which the casino gaming establishment is located.

228 Article 2.

229 Eligible Host ~~City~~ *Locality*; Certification of Preferred Casino Gaming Operator.

230 **§ 58.1-4107. Eligible host locality; certification of preferred casino gaming operator.**

231 A. The conduct of casino gaming shall be limited to the following eligible host ~~cities~~ *localities*:

232 1. Any city (i) in which at least 40 percent of the assessed value of all real estate in such city is exempt
233 from local property taxation, according to the Virginia Department of Taxation Annual Report for Fiscal
234 Year 2018, and (ii) that experienced a population decrease of at least seven percent from 1990 to 2016,
235 according to data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau;

236 2. Any city that had (i) an annual unemployment rate of at least five percent in 2018, according to data
237 provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; (ii) an annual poverty rate of at least 20 percent in 2017,
238 according to data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau; and (iii) a population decrease of at least 20 percent
239 from 1990 to 2016, according to data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau;

240 3. Any city that (i) had an annual unemployment rate of at least 3.6 percent in 2018, according to data
241 provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; (ii) had an annual poverty rate of at least 20 percent in 2017,
242 according to data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau; (iii) experienced a population decrease of at least four
243 percent from 1990 to 2016, according to data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau; and (iv) is located
244 adjacent to a state that has adopted a Border Region Retail Tourism Development District Act;

245 4. Any city (i) with a population greater than 200,000 according to the 2018 population estimates from the

246 Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of Virginia; (ii) in which at least 24 percent of the
 247 assessed value of all real estate in such city is exempt from local property taxation, according to the Virginia
 248 Department of Taxation Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018; and (iii) that experienced a population decrease
 249 of at least five percent from 1990 to 2016, according to data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau; ~~and~~

250 5. Any city (i) in which at least 17 percent of the assessed value of all real estate in such city is exempt
 251 from local property taxation, according to the Virginia Department of Taxation Annual Report for Fiscal
 252 Year 2016; (ii) that had a poverty rate of at least 21 percent in 2019, according to data provided by the U.S.
 253 Census Bureau; and (iii) that had an annual unemployment rate of at least 13 percent in 2020, according to
 254 data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics; *and*

255 6. Any county (i) with a population greater than 1.15 million in 2020 according to data provided by the
 256 U.S. Census Bureau; (ii) in which at least six percent of the assessed value of all real estate in such county is
 257 exempt from local property taxation, according to the Virginia Department of Taxation Annual Report for
 258 Fiscal Year 2021; and (iii) that has adopted the urban county executive form of government.

259 B. In selecting a preferred casino gaming operator, ~~an~~ any eligible host ~~city~~ locality shall have considered
 260 and given substantial weight to factors such as:

261 1. The potential benefit and prospective revenues of the proposed casino gaming establishment.

262 2. The total value of the proposed casino gaming establishment.

263 3. The proposed capital investment and the financial health of the proposer and any proposed development
 264 partners.

265 4. The experience of the proposer and any development partners in the operation of a casino gaming
 266 establishment.

267 5. Security plans for the proposed casino gaming establishment.

268 6. The economic development value of the proposed casino gaming establishment and the potential for
 269 community reinvestment and redevelopment in an area in need of such.

270 7. Availability of ~~city-owned~~ locality-owned assets and privately owned assets, such as real property,
 271 including where there is only one location practicably available or land under a development agreement
 272 between a potential operator and the ~~city~~ locality, incorporated in the proposal.

273 8. The best financial interest of the ~~city~~ locality.

274 9. The proposer's status as a minority-owned business as defined in § 2.2-1604 or the proposer's
 275 commitment to solicit equity investment in the proposed casino gaming establishment from one or more
 276 minority-owned businesses and the proposer's commitment to solicit contracts with minority-owned
 277 businesses for the purchase of goods and services.

278 C. The Department shall, upon request of any eligible host ~~city~~ locality, provide a list of resources that
 279 may be of assistance in evaluating the technical merits of any proposal submitted pursuant to this section,
 280 provided that selection of the preferred casino gaming operator shall be at the ~~city's~~ locality's sole discretion.

281 D. The eligible host ~~city~~ locality described in subdivision A 4 shall provide substantial and preferred
 282 consideration to a proposer who is a Virginia Indian tribe recognized in House Joint Resolution No. 54
 283 (1983) and acknowledged by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior as
 284 an Indian tribe within the meaning of federal law that has the authority to conduct gaming activities as a
 285 matter of claimed inherent authority or under the authority of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. §
 286 2701 et seq.).

287 E. *The eligible host locality described in subdivision A 6 shall be limited to a proposed site for a casino
 288 gaming establishment that is (i) located within one-quarter of a mile of an existing station on the Metro Silver
 289 Line, (ii) part of a coordinated mixed-use project development consisting of not less than 1.5 million square
 290 feet, (iii) within two miles of a regional enclosed mall containing not less than 1.5 million square feet of gross
 291 building area, and (iv) outside of the Interstate 495 Beltway.*

292 F. An eligible host ~~city~~ locality shall promptly submit its preferred casino gaming operator to the
 293 Department for review prior to scheduling the referendum required by § 58.1-4123. An eligible host ~~city~~
 294 locality shall include with the submission any written or electronic documentation considered as part of the
 295 criteria in subsection B, including any memorandums of understanding, incentives, development agreements,
 296 land purchase agreements, or local infrastructure agreements. The Department shall conduct a preliminary
 297 review of the financial status and ability of the preferred casino gaming operator to operate and properly
 298 support ongoing operations in an eligible host ~~city~~ locality, as well as current casino operations in other states
 299 and territories. The Department shall conduct such review within 45 days of receipt of the submission by the
 300 eligible host ~~city~~ locality. An eligible host ~~city~~ locality and preferred casino gaming operator shall fully
 301 cooperate with all necessary requests by the Department in that regard. Upon successful preliminary review,
 302 the Department shall certify approval for the eligible host ~~city~~ locality to proceed to the referendum required
 303 by § 58.1-4123. The Department shall develop guidelines establishing procedures and criteria for conducting
 304 the preliminary review required by this subsection. Certification by the Department to proceed to referendum
 305 shall in no way entitle the preferred casino gaming operator to approval of any application to operate a casino
 306 gaming establishment.

307 § 58.1-4107.1. Regional Improvement Commission.

308 There is hereby established the Regional Improvement Commission (the Commission). The membership
309 of the Commission shall consist of one member appointed by the local governing body of each jurisdiction
310 composing the transportation district created pursuant to the Transportation District Act of 1964 (§ 33.2-1900
311 et seq.) that includes the eligible host ~~city~~ *locality* described in subdivision A 3 of § 58.1-4107. Each member
312 shall be appointed to serve a two-year term. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision B 1 of
313 § 58.1-4125, for a casino gaming establishment located in the eligible host ~~city~~ *locality* described in
314 subdivision A 3 of § 58.1-4107, such transfer, otherwise returned to the ~~city~~ *locality* where it was collected,
315 shall instead be made to the Commission. The purpose of the Commission shall be to (i) receive
316 disbursements made to it; (ii) establish funding priorities for member localities related to improvements in the
317 areas of education, transportation, and public safety; and (iii) make annual payments divided equally among
318 the jurisdictions to fund the established priorities as determined by the Commission.

319 **§ 58.1-4109. Submission of preferred casino gaming operator by eligible host locality; application**
320 **for operator's license; penalty.**

321 A. If a majority of those voting in a referendum held pursuant to § 58.1-4123 vote in the affirmative, the
322 eligible host ~~city~~ *locality* shall certify its preferred casino gaming operator and submit such certification to the
323 Department within 30 days.

324 B. Any preferred casino gaming operator desiring to operate a casino gaming establishment shall file with
325 the Department an application for an operator's license. Such application shall be filed at the place prescribed
326 by the Department and shall be in such form and contain such information as prescribed by the Department,
327 including ~~but not limited to~~ the following:

328 1. The name and address of such person; if a corporation, the state of its incorporation, the full name and
329 address of each officer and director thereof, and, if a foreign corporation, whether it is qualified to do
330 business in the Commonwealth; if a partnership or joint venture, the name and address of each general
331 partner thereof; if a limited liability company, the name and address of each manager thereof; or, if another
332 entity, the name and address of each person performing duties similar to those of officers, directors, and
333 general partners;

334 2. The name and address of each principal and of each person who has contracted to become a principal of
335 the applicant, including providing management services with respect to any part of gaming operations; the
336 nature and cost of such principal's interest; and the name and address of each person who has agreed to lend
337 money to the applicant;

338 3. Such information as the Department considers appropriate regarding the character, background, and
339 responsibility of the applicant and the principals, officers, and directors of the applicant;

340 4. A description of the casino gaming establishment in which such gaming operations are to be conducted,
341 the ~~city~~ *locality* where such casino gaming establishment will be located, and the applicant's capital
342 investment plan for the site. The Board shall require such information about a casino gaming establishment
343 and its location as it deems necessary and appropriate to determine whether it complies with the minimum
344 standards provided in this chapter and whether gaming operations at such location will be in furtherance of
345 the purposes of this chapter;

346 5. Such information relating to the financial responsibility of the applicant, including the applicant's
347 financing plan for the casino gaming establishment, and the applicant's ability to perform under its license as
348 the Department considers appropriate;

349 6. If any of the facilities necessary for the conduct of gaming operations are to be leased, the terms of such
350 lease;

351 7. Evidence of compliance by the applicant with the economic development and land use plans and design
352 review criteria of the local governing body of the ~~city~~ *locality* in which the casino gaming establishment is
353 proposed to be located, including certification that the project complies with all applicable land use
354 ordinances pursuant to Chapter 22 (§ 15.2-2200 et seq.) of Title 15.2;

355 8. Such information necessary to enable the Department to review the application based upon the best
356 financial interests of the Commonwealth;

357 9. Such information necessary to enable the Department to authorize on-premises mobile casino gaming
358 pursuant to Article 11 (§ 58.1-4131 et seq.);

359 10. Submission of the following: (i) a minority investment plan disclosing any equity interest owned by a
360 minority individual or minority-owned business or the applicant's efforts to seek equity investment from
361 minority individuals or minority-owned businesses and (ii) a plan for the participation of minority individuals
362 or minority-owned businesses in the applicant's purchase of goods and services related to the casino gaming
363 establishment. As used in the subdivision, "minority individual" and "minority-owned business" mean the
364 same as those terms are defined in § 2.2-1604; and

365 11. Any other information that the Department in its discretion considers appropriate.

366 C. A nonrefundable application fee of \$50,000 shall be paid for each principal at the time of filing to
367 defray the costs associated with the background investigation conducted for the Department. If the reasonable
368 costs of the investigation exceed the application fee, the applicant shall pay the additional amount to the
369 Department. The Board may establish regulations calculating the reasonable costs to the Department in

370 performing its functions under this chapter and allocating such costs to the applicants for licensure at the time
371 of filing.

372 D. Any license application from an Indian tribe as described in subsection D of § 58.1-4107 shall certify
373 that the material terms of the relevant development agreements between the Indian tribe and any development
374 partner have been determined in the opinion of the Office of General Counsel of the National Indian Gaming
375 Commission after review not to deprive the Indian tribe of the sole proprietor interest in the gaming
376 operations for purposes of federal Indian gaming law.

377 E. Any application filed hereunder shall be verified by the oath or affirmation of the applicant. Any
378 person who knowingly makes a false statement on an application is guilty of a Class 4 felony.

379 F. The licensed operator shall be the person primarily responsible for the gaming operations under its
380 license and compliance of such operations with the provisions of this chapter.

381 G. The Department may use or rely on any application, supporting documentation, or information
382 submitted pursuant to § 58.1-4032, in reviewing and verifying an application submitted pursuant to this
383 chapter.

384 **§ 58.1-4110. Issuance of operator's license to preferred casino gaming operator; standards for**
385 **licensure; temporary casino gaming allowed under certain conditions.**

386 A. If a preferred casino gaming operator, as certified by the applicable eligible host ~~city~~ *locality*, submits
387 an application that meets the standards for licensure set forth in this article, the Board shall issue an operator's
388 license to such preferred casino gaming operator. The Board shall not consider an application from any
389 applicant that has not been certified as a preferred casino gaming operator by an eligible host ~~city~~ *locality*.

390 B. The Board may issue an operator's license to an applicant only if it finds that:

391 1. The applicant submits a plan for addressing responsible gaming issues, including the goals of the plan,
392 procedures, and deadlines for implementation of the plan;

393 2. The applicant has established a policy requiring all license and permit holders who interact directly
394 with the public in the casino gaming establishment to complete a training course acceptable to the
395 Department in how to recognize and report suspected human trafficking;

396 3. The casino gaming establishment the applicant proposes to use on a permanent basis is or will be
397 appropriate for gaming operations consistent with the purposes of this chapter;

398 4. The ~~city~~ *locality* where the casino gaming establishment will be located certifies that the proposed
399 project complies with all applicable land use ordinances pursuant to Chapter 22 (§ 15.2-2200 et seq.) of Title
400 15.2;

401 5. Any required local infrastructure or site improvements, including necessary sewerage, water, drainage
402 facilities, or traffic flow, are to be paid exclusively by the applicant without state or local financial assistance;

403 6. If the applicant is an entity, its securities are fully paid and, in the case of stock, nonassessable and have
404 been subscribed and will be paid for only in cash or property to the exclusion of past services;

405 7. All principals meet the criteria of this subsection and have submitted to the jurisdiction of the Virginia
406 courts, and all nonresident principals have designated the Director as their agent for receipt of process;

407 8. If the applicant is an entity, it has the right to purchase at fair market value the securities of, and require
408 the resignation of, any person who is or becomes disqualified under subsection C;

409 9. The applicant meets any other criteria established by this chapter and the Board's regulations for the
410 granting of an operator's license;

411 10. The applicant is qualified to do business in Virginia or is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of the
412 Commonwealth; and

413 11. The applicant has not previously been denied a license pursuant to subsection C.

414 C. The Board shall deny a license to an applicant if it finds that for any reason the issuance of a license to
415 the applicant would reflect adversely on the honesty and integrity of the casino gaming industry in the
416 Commonwealth or that the applicant, or any officer, principal, manager, or director of the applicant:

417 1. Is or has been guilty of any illegal act, conduct, or practice in connection with gaming operations in this
418 or any other state or has been convicted of a felony;

419 2. Has had a license or permit to hold or conduct a gaming operation denied for cause, suspended, or
420 revoked, in this or any other state or country, unless the license or permit was subsequently granted or
421 reinstated;

422 3. Has at any time during the previous five years knowingly failed to comply with the provisions of this
423 chapter or any Department regulation;

424 4. Has knowingly made a false statement of material fact to the Department or has deliberately failed to
425 disclose any information requested by the Department;

426 5. Has defaulted in the payment of any obligation or debt due to the Commonwealth and has not cured
427 such default; or

428 6. Has operated or caused to be operated a casino gaming establishment for which a license is required
429 under this chapter without obtaining such license.

430 D. The Board shall make a determination regarding whether to issue the operator's license within 12
431 months of the receipt of a completed application.

432 E. The Board shall be limited to the issuance of one operator's license for each eligible host ~~city~~ *locality*.

433 F. If, at the time of application, the applicant has not satisfied the capital investment requirement of at
 434 least \$300 million pursuant to subsection B of § 58.1-4108 but otherwise meets the standards for licensure set
 435 forth in this article, the Department shall issue the operator's license, which, prior to satisfying the capital
 436 investment requirement, may not be used to conduct gaming other than temporary casino gaming pursuant to
 437 subsection G.

438 G. The Department may authorize casino gaming to occur on a temporary basis for a period of one year
 439 under the following conditions:

440 1. The request to authorize casino gaming is made by a preferred casino gaming operator that has been
 441 issued a license consistent with this section.

442 2. The preferred casino gaming operator has submitted as a part of its application for licensure a
 443 construction schedule for a casino gaming establishment that has been approved by the eligible host ~~city~~
 444 *locality* and the Department.

445 3. The temporary casino gaming is to be conducted at the same site referenced in the referendum held
 446 pursuant to § 58.1-4123.

447 4. The preferred casino gaming operator has secured suppliers and employees holding the appropriate
 448 permits required by this chapter and sufficient for the routine operation of the site where the temporary casino
 449 gaming is authorized.

450 5. A performance bond is posted in an amount acceptable to the Board.

451 H. No portion of any facility developed with the assistance of any grants or loans provided by a
 452 redevelopment and housing authority created pursuant to § 36-4 shall be used as a casino gaming
 453 establishment.

454 The Department may renew the authorization to conduct temporary casino gaming for an additional year
 455 if it determines that the preferred casino gaming operator has made a good faith effort to comply with the
 456 approved construction schedule.

457 I. An operator issued a license under this chapter shall not be precluded from operating a sports betting
 458 facility for individuals to participate in sports betting activities in a casino gaming establishment, which may
 459 include in-person sports betting where the bettor places a bet directly with an employee of the casino or the
 460 sports betting permit holder, or through a kiosk or device.

461 **§ 58.1-4111. Duration and form of operator's license; bond.**

462 A. A casino gaming operator license under this chapter shall be valid for a period of 10 years from its date
 463 of issuance but shall be reviewed no less frequently than annually to determine compliance with this chapter
 464 and Department regulations. Such annual review shall include a certification by the eligible host ~~city~~
 465 *locality* of the status of the operator's compliance with local ordinances and regulations. If the certification states that
 466 the operator is not in compliance, the Department shall require the operator to submit a plan of compliance,
 467 corrective action, or request for variance.

468 B. The Board shall establish by regulation the criteria and procedures for license renewal and for
 469 amending licenses to conform to changes in a licensee's gaming operations. Such regulations shall require the
 470 operator to submit to the Board any updates or revisions to the capital investment plan provided with the
 471 initial license application pursuant to subdivision B 4 of § 58.1-4109. Renewal shall not be unreasonably
 472 refused.

473 C. The Department shall require a bond with surety acceptable to it, and in an amount determined by it, to
 474 be sufficient to cover any indebtedness incurred by the licensee to the Commonwealth.

475 **§ 58.1-4123. Local referendum required.**

476 A. The Department shall not grant any initial license to operate a gaming operation in an eligible host ~~city~~
 477 *locality* until a referendum on the question of whether casino gaming shall be permitted in such ~~city~~
 478 *locality* is approved by the voters of such ~~city~~ *locality*.

479 B. The governing body of any ~~city~~ *locality* containing an eligible host ~~city~~ *locality* shall petition the court,
 480 by resolution, asking that a referendum be held on the question of whether casino gaming shall be permitted
 481 within the ~~city~~ *locality*. The court, by order entered of record in accordance with Article 5 (§ 24.2-681 et seq.)
 482 of Chapter 6 of Title 24.2, shall require the regular election officials of the ~~city~~ *locality* to open the polls and
 483 take the sense of the voters on the question as herein provided.

484 C. The clerk of such court of record of such ~~city~~ *locality* shall publish notice of such election in a
 485 newspaper of general circulation in such ~~city~~ *locality* once a week for three consecutive weeks prior to such
 486 election.

487 D. The regular election officers of such ~~city~~ *locality* shall open the polls at the various voting places in
 488 such ~~city~~ *locality* on the date specified in such order and conduct such election in the manner provided by
 489 law. The election shall be by ballot, which shall be prepared by the electoral board of the ~~city~~ *locality* and on
 490 which shall be printed the following question:

491 "Shall casino gaming be permitted at a casino gaming establishment in (name of ~~city~~ *locality* and location)
 492 as may be approved by the Virginia Lottery Board?

493 [] Yes

494 [] No"

495 In the blank shall be inserted the name of the *city locality* in which such election is held and the proposed
496 location of the casino gaming establishment. Any voter desiring to vote "Yes" shall mark in the square
497 provided for such purpose immediately preceding the word "Yes," leaving the square immediately preceding
498 the word "No" unmarked. Any voter desiring to vote "No" shall mark in the square provided for such purpose
499 immediately preceding the word "No," leaving the square immediately preceding the word "Yes" unmarked.

500 E. The ballots shall be counted, the returns made and canvassed as in other elections, and the results
501 certified by the electoral board to the court ordering such election. Thereupon, such court shall enter an order
502 proclaiming the results of such election and a duly certified copy of such order shall be transmitted to the
503 Department and to the governing body of such *city locality*.

504 F. A subsequent local referendum shall be required if a license has not been granted by the Board within
505 five years of the court order proclaiming the results of the election.

506 G. The governing body of any eligible host *city locality* that holds a local referendum pursuant to this
507 section that subsequently fails shall be prohibited from holding another local referendum on the same
508 question for a period of three years from the date of the last referendum.

509 **§ 58.1-4125. Gaming Proceeds Fund.**

510 A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Gaming
511 Proceeds Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the
512 Comptroller. All moneys required to be deposited into the Fund pursuant to this chapter shall be paid into the
513 state treasury and credited to the Fund. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the
514 end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund.

515 B. Revenues ~~from~~ *accrued to* the Fund shall be apportioned by the Comptroller as follows:

516 1. The following amounts shall be distributed to the *city locality* in which they were collected by warrants
517 of the Comptroller drawn on the Treasurer of Virginia on a quarterly basis:

- 518 a. An amount equal to a six percent tax on the first \$200 million of adjusted gross receipts;
- 519 b. An amount equal to a seven percent tax on the adjusted gross receipts that exceed \$200 million but do
520 not exceed \$400 million; and
- 521 c. An amount equal to an eight percent tax on the adjusted gross receipts that exceed \$400 million.

522 2. For any casino gaming establishment operated by a Virginia Indian tribe recognized in House Joint
523 Resolution No. 54 (1983) and acknowledged by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs of the U.S.
524 Department of the Interior as an Indian tribe within the meaning of federal law that has the authority to
525 conduct gaming activities as a matter of claimed inherent authority or under the authority of the Indian
526 Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq.), an amount equal to a tax of one percent on the adjusted
527 gross receipts of such establishment shall be deposited in the Virginia Indigenous People's Trust Fund
528 established pursuant to § 2.2-401.01.

529 3. Eight-tenths of one percent of the Fund shall be deposited in the Problem Gambling Treatment and
530 Support Fund established pursuant to § 37.2-314.2.

531 4. Two-tenths of one percent of the Fund shall be deposited in the Family and Children's Trust Fund
532 established pursuant to § 63.2-2100.

533 5. Any remaining revenues not apportioned pursuant to subdivisions 1 through 4 shall be deposited in the
534 School Construction Fund established pursuant to § 22.1-140.1.

535 *C. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B, revenues accrued to the Fund by a casino gaming
536 establishment located in the host locality described in subdivision A 6 of § 58.1-4107 shall be apportioned by
537 the Comptroller as follows:*

538 1. *Fifty percent shall be distributed to the locality in which they were collected by warrants of the
539 Comptroller drawn on the State Treasurer on a quarterly basis for use in funding for K-12 public education.*

540 2. *Any remaining revenues not apportioned pursuant to subdivision 1 shall be deposited in the School
541 Construction Fund established pursuant to § 22.1-140.1.*

542 **2. That the MEI Project Approval Commission (the Commission) established pursuant to § 30-309 of**
543 **the Code of Virginia shall have the authority to approve the selection and operation of a temporary**
544 **casino gaming establishment (temporary establishment) in an eligible host locality described in**
545 **subdivision A 6 of § 58.1-4107 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act. Such temporary**
546 **establishment shall be limited to the requirements set forth in subdivisions E 1, 3, and 4 of § 58.1-4107**
547 **of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, and shall have a gaming floor that does not exceed**
548 **150,000 square feet. Upon approval by the Commission, operations of such temporary establishment**
549 **shall continue until (i) the eligible host locality set forth in subdivision A 6 of § 58.1-4107 of the Code of**
550 **Virginia, as amended by this act, has selected a preferred casino gaming operator; (ii) notwithstanding**
551 **subsection C of § 58.1-4107 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, such selection has been**
552 **approved by the General Assembly; and (iii) the operations of such casino gaming operator are**
553 **subsequently approved pursuant to the referendum requirements set forth in § 58.1-4123 of the Code**
554 **of Virginia, as amended by this act; however, the temporary establishment shall not be operational for**
555 **longer than five years from the opening date of such establishment, as approved by the Commission.**

556 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all funds collected pursuant to § 58.1-4124 of the Code of
557 Virginia from the operation of such casino gaming establishment operating pursuant to a temporary
558 license that would otherwise be distributed to the eligible host locality shall be distributed as described
559 in subdivision B 1 of § 58.1-4125 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, to the school board of
560 the eligible host locality described in subdivision A 6 of § 58.1-4107 of the Code of Virginia, as amended
561 by this act. All other tax provisions applicable to casino gaming establishments, except for those set
562 forth in subsection C of § 58.1-4125 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, shall apply to such
563 temporary establishments. Upon approval by the Commission of a temporary establishment, the
564 eligible host locality shall issue all applicable permits by right. The provisions of this enactment shall
565 supersede all other applicable provisions of law.