



CASINO GAMBLING SLOT MACHINES

FLORIDA PTA POSITION

Florida PTA believes that the intrusion of casino gambling into the community would not benefit children and youth. Claims of the monetary benefits to education to be derived from proceeds of casino gambling are not factually substantiated. Florida PTA opposed the legalization of casino gambling in Florida at their 1978 convention and continues to do so.

Background

In November 2004, voters passed a constitutional amendment granting Broward and Miami Dade voters the ability to hold a local referendum, which would allow the addition of slot machines to existing pari-mutuel facilities. The proceeds from any taxes that the Legislature may choose to levy on the slot revenues would be used to supplement education. In March 2005, local referendums were held in Broward and Miami Dade. It passed in Broward and failed in Miami Dade. It is now up to the Legislature to pass an implementing bill deciding the tax percentage as well as regulations regarding the slot machines.



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Talking Points

- Slot Machines don't provide a stable source of revenue
- **REMEMBER THE LOTTERY.**
- The language states that the legislature **may** tax the slots, and such taxes must supplement public education funding statewide.
- That means, first of all, the legislature is not required to tax the slots. They could just charge a licensing fee, which can be used however they want, or they may not take any action at all.
- The legislature has already stated that the revenues may be used to supplement programs such as: enhancements to the voucher program, financial rewards for the state's best-performing schools; teacher pay incentives; funding for the voter mandated universal pre-kindergarten for all Florida 4-year-olds.
- The legislature can also regulate the machines, the type, number and how many hours and days they can operate, which can severely limit slot revenues.
- Since the year 2000 the Legislature has not adequately implemented any of the constitutional amendments dealing with education, such as class size reduction and PreK.
- The Florida Constitution states that it is a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders.
- The Legislature has the power to meet this constitutional mandate without slot machines.

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