

House Resolution 327

By: Representative Stephens of the 164th

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; and otherwise provide
 15 for any other matters relating to the purposes or provisions of this subparagraph and
 16 subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph. Notwithstanding the contents of this subparagraph and
 17 subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph, all other forms of casino gaming shall remain
 18 prohibited in this state, and this prohibition shall be enforced by penal laws. The General
 19 Assembly's limitation and regulation of casino gaming licenses within this state shall not
 20 be subject to Article III, Section VI, Paragraph V(c) of the Constitution.

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

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

52 **SECTION 2.**

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

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

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

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

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