

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Gadsden County; authorizing a
3 referendum for the authorization of slot machine
4 gaming at a pari-mutuel quarter horse facility in the
5 City of Gretna; allowing a favorable referendum to
6 qualify a facility as an eligible facility for the
7 purposes of slot machine gaming; providing an
8 effective date.

9
10 WHEREAS, the Legislature has provided in s. 551.102(4),
11 Florida Statutes, that any licensed pari-mutuel facility in a
12 county in which "a majority of voters have approved slot
13 machines at such facilities in a countywide referendum held
14 pursuant to a statutory or constitutional authorization after
15 the effective date of this section in the respective county" is
16 eligible for slot machine gaming, and

17 WHEREAS, Gadsden County previously conducted a favorable
18 slot machine referendum in 2012 regarding slot machine gaming,
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the Florida Supreme Court in Gretna Racing, LLC v.
21 Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation
22 concluded that the Legislature did not specifically authorize
23 the conduct of the referendum, and

24 WHEREAS, Gadsden County is a county with unique economic
25 development challenges, and

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26 WHEREAS, Gadsden County is uniquely positioned in North
 27 Florida to take advantage of the economic development that could
 28 result from slot machine gaming and development in and around
 29 the interstate exit located within the City of Gretna near the
 30 pari-mutuel quarter horse facility, and

31 WHEREAS, the Legislature acknowledges these unique factors
 32 in granting Gadsden County the right to move forward with a slot
 33 machine gaming referendum, NOW, THEREFORE,

34
 35 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

36
 37 Section 1. The purpose of this act is to provide to
 38 Gadsden County specific statutory authorization to act on the
 39 subject of slot machine gaming under s. 551.102(4), Florida
 40 Statutes.

41 Section 2. Gadsden County is authorized at any time after
 42 the effective date of this act to schedule a countywide
 43 referendum in which the ballot question shall read as follows:

44
 45 Shall slot machine gaming be authorized at the pari-mutuel
 46 quarter horse racing facility in the City of Gretna?

47
 48 Yes _____

49
 50 No _____

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51 Section 3. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a
52 referendum conducted in which the question posed in section 2 is
53 answered favorably by a majority of electors casting their
54 ballots shall qualify the pari-mutuel quarter horse racing
55 facility as an eligible facility under s. 551.102(4), Florida
56 Statutes.

57 Section 4. This act shall be liberally construed to
58 promote the purpose intended.

59 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.