

Senate Resolution 53

By: Senators Beach of the 21st and Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to provide for
2 pari-mutuel betting in this state under certain circumstances; to provide for related matters;
3 to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other
4 purposes.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

7 Article I, Section II of the Constitution is amended in Paragraph VIII by adding a new
8 subparagraph to read as follows:

9 "(e) The General Assembly may by law provide for the operation and regulation of
10 pari-mutuel betting on horse racing only on the premises of racetracks by or on behalf of
11 the state and for any matters relating to the purposes or provisions of this subparagraph.
12 No off-track or off-site pari-mutuel betting on horse racing under this subparagraph shall
13 be permitted or authorized. For the purpose of regulation and taxation of such activities,
14 the General Assembly shall create a gaming commission and provide the commission with
15 such powers and duties as necessary to provide appropriate regulation of pari-mutuel
16 betting on horse racing and to tax such activities. Proceeds derived from the regulation and
17 taxation of pari-mutuel betting on horse racing shall be used to pay the expenses of such

18 regulation and taxation and to fund educational programs and educational purposes, as
19 listed in subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, and rural health care services and health
20 insurance coverage in this state. Such proceeds shall not be subject to Article VII,
21 Section III, Paragraph II; Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(a); or Article III, Section IX,
22 Paragraph IV(c), except that the net proceeds after payment of such expenses of regulation
23 and taxation shall be subject to Article VII, Section III, Paragraph II. Net proceeds after
24 payment of such expenses of regulation and taxation shall be separately accounted for and
25 shall be specifically identified by the Governor in his or her annual budget presented to the
26 General Assembly as a separate budget category entitled 'Pari-mutuel Betting Proceeds' and
27 the Governor shall make specific recommendations as to the educational programs and
28 educational purposes, as listed in subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, and rural health care
29 services and health insurance coverage to which such net proceeds shall be appropriated.
30 In the General Appropriations Act adopted by the General Assembly, the General
31 Assembly shall appropriate all net proceeds of pari-mutuel betting on horse racing by such
32 separate budget category to the provision of educational programs and educational
33 purposes, as listed in subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, and rural health care services and
34 health insurance coverage in this state. Such net proceeds shall be used to support
35 improvements and enhancements for educational programs and educational purposes, as
36 listed in subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, and rural health care services and health care
37 insurance coverage and such net proceeds shall be used to supplement, not supplant,
38 non-pari-mutuel betting resources for educational programs and educational purposes, as
39 listed in subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, and rural health care services and health
40 insurance coverage. Of such net proceeds, 75 percent shall be allocated to educational
41 programs and educational purposes, as listed in subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, and 25
42 percent to rural health care services and health insurance coverage. No pari-mutuel betting
43 on horse racing under this subparagraph shall take place in any county in this state unless
44 the electors of such county voting in a referendum on such authorization approve such

45 authorization. Such referendum shall be initiated either by the adoption of a resolution by
46 the governing authority of such county authorizing pari-mutuel betting on horse racing
47 within such county or by a petition by a number of electors of such county as provided by
48 general law for a referendum to authorize pari-mutuel betting on horse racing within such
49 county. The General Assembly shall provide by law procedures for such authorization."

50 **SECTION 2.**

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

54 "() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize pari-mutuel
55 () NO betting on horse racing in this state under certain circumstances?"

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

57 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
58 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
59 become a part of the Constitution of this state.