

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1655 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY HARKINS, CONKLIN, GIRAL AND HILL-EVANS,
JUNE 24, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, JUNE 24, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in fantasy contests, further providing for
3 definitions and for general and specific powers of board; in
4 general provisions relating to gaming, further providing for
5 definitions; in fingerprinting, further providing for
6 submission of fingerprints and photographs; in general
7 provisions relating to video gaming, further providing for
8 definitions; and, in administration, further providing for
9 powers of board.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The definition of "applicant" in section 302 of
13 Title 4 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to
14 read:

15 § 302. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
17 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 "Applicant." A person who, on his own behalf or on behalf of
20 another, is applying for [permission to engage in any act or
21 activity which is regulated under the provisions of]

1 registration or a permit, certification, license, qualification,
2 renewal or other credential issued by the board under this
3 chapter. If the applicant is a person other than an individual,
4 the board shall determine the associated persons whose
5 qualifications are necessary as a precondition to the licensing
6 of the applicant.

7 * * *

8 Section 2. Section 311(b) (7.1) and (7.2) of Title 4 are
9 amended to read:

10 § 311. General and specific powers of board.

11 * * *

12 (b) Specific powers.--The board shall have the following
13 specific powers:

14 * * *

15 (7.1) [To require prospective and existing employees,
16 independent contractors, applicants and licensees to submit
17 to fingerprinting by the Pennsylvania State Police or an
18 authorized agent of the Pennsylvania State Police. The
19 Pennsylvania State Police or authorized agent of the
20 Pennsylvania State Police shall submit the fingerprints to
21 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for purposes or verifying
22 the identity of the individual and obtaining records of
23 criminal arrests and convictions.] In order to ensure the
24 integrity of gaming-related activities in this Commonwealth,
25 to require criminal history record checks for an individual
26 who is a prospective employee, existing employee, independent
27 contractor, applicant or licensee and seeks registration or a
28 permit, certification, license, qualification, renewal or
29 other credential issued by the board under this chapter. The
30 following shall apply:

1 (i) The individual must submit a full set of
2 fingerprints to the Pennsylvania State Police.

3 (ii) The Pennsylvania State Police shall check the
4 fingerprints of the individual against records in the
5 Pennsylvania State Police central repository for the
6 purpose of obtaining a current record of any criminal
7 arrests and convictions.

8 (iii) The Pennsylvania State Police shall submit the
9 fingerprints of the individual to the Federal Bureau of
10 Investigation for the purpose of verifying the identity
11 of the individual and obtaining a current record of any
12 criminal arrests and convictions.

13 (iv) The Pennsylvania State Police shall forward the
14 results of the criminal history record check to the board
15 for the sole purpose of determining the individual's
16 eligibility for the registration, permit, certification,
17 license, renewal or other qualification. The board may
18 not disseminate the criminal history record check
19 information to any other entity.

20 (7.2) To require prospective and existing employees of
21 the board, independent contractors of the board, applicants
22 and licensees to submit photographs consistent with the
23 standards established by the board.

24 * * *

25 Section 3. The definition of "applicant" in section 1103 of
26 Title 4 is amended to read:

27 § 1103. Definitions.

28 The following words and phrases when used in this part shall
29 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
30 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 * * *

2 "Applicant." [Any] A person who, on his own behalf or on
3 behalf of another, is applying for [permission to engage in any
4 act or activity which is regulated under the provisions of]
5 registration or a permit, certification, license, qualification,
6 renewal or other credential issued by the board under this part.
7 In cases in which the applicant is a person other than an
8 individual, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board shall
9 determine the associated persons whose qualifications are
10 necessary as a precondition to the licensing of the applicant.

11 * * *

12 Section 4. Section 1802 of Title 4 is amended to read:

13 § 1802. Submission of fingerprints and photographs.

14 [Appointees, employees and prospective employees engaged in
15 the service of the commissions or the board and applicants under
16 this part shall submit to fingerprinting and photographing by
17 the Pennsylvania State Police or by a local law enforcement
18 agency capable of submitting fingerprints and photographs
19 electronically to the Pennsylvania State Police utilizing the
20 Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System and the
21 Commonwealth Photo Imaging Network or in a manner and in such
22 form as may be provided by the Pennsylvania State Police.
23 Fingerprinting pursuant to this part shall require, at a
24 minimum, the submission of a full set of fingerprints.
25 Photographing pursuant to this part shall require submission to
26 photographs of the face and any scars, marks or tattoos for
27 purposes of comparison utilizing an automated biometric imaging
28 system. The Pennsylvania State Police shall submit fingerprints
29 when requested by the commissions or the board to the Federal
30 Bureau of Investigation for purposes of verifying the identity

1 of the applicants and obtaining records of criminal arrests and
2 convictions in order to prepare criminal history background
3 investigations under section 1801 (relating to duty to provide).
4 Fingerprints and photographs obtained pursuant to this part may
5 be maintained by the commissions, the board and the Pennsylvania
6 State Police for use pursuant to this part and for general law
7 enforcement purposes. In addition to any other fee or cost
8 assessed by the commissions or the board, an applicant shall pay
9 for the cost of fingerprinting and photographing.] (a)

10 Background check.--

11 (1) In order to ensure the integrity of gaming-related
12 activities in this Commonwealth, the board shall require
13 criminal history record checks for an individual who is an
14 appointee to the board, appointee to the commission,
15 prospective employee, existing employee, independent
16 contractor, applicant or licensee who seeks registration or a
17 permit, certification, license, qualification, renewal or
18 other credential issued by the board under this part.

19 (2) The individual shall submit a full set of
20 fingerprints to the Pennsylvania State Police.

21 (3) The Pennsylvania State Police shall:

22 (i) Check the fingerprints of the individual against
23 records in the Pennsylvania State Police central
24 repository for the purpose of obtaining a current
25 criminal history record of any criminal arrests and
26 convictions.

27 (ii) Submit the fingerprints of the individual to
28 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of
29 verifying the identity of the individual and obtaining a
30 current record of any criminal arrests and convictions.

1 (iii) Forward the results of the criminal history
2 record check to the board for the sole purpose of
3 determining the individual's eligibility for the
4 registration or permit, certification, license,
5 qualification, credential or renewal under this part.

6 (4) The board may not disseminate the criminal history
7 record check information received under paragraph (3)(iii) to
8 any other entity.

9 (b) Photographs.--

10 (1) An appointee, employee and prospective employee
11 engaged in the service of the commission or the board and an
12 applicant under this part shall submit to photographing by
13 the Pennsylvania State Police or a local law enforcement
14 agency capable of submitting photographs electronically to
15 the Pennsylvania State Police.

16 (2) Photographing under this subsection shall consist of
17 taking images of the face and any scar, mark or tattoo for
18 purposes of comparison utilizing an automated biometric
19 imaging system.

20 (3) Photographs obtained under this subsection may be
21 maintained by the commission, the board and the Pennsylvania
22 State Police for use under this part and for general law
23 enforcement purposes.

24 (c) Payment.--In addition to any other fee or cost assessed
25 by the commission or the board, an applicant shall pay for the
26 cost of fingerprinting and photographing under this section.

27 Section 5. The definition of "applicant" in section 3102 of
28 Title 4 is amended to read:

29 § 3102. Definitions.

30 The following words and phrases when used in this part shall

1 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 * * *

4 "Applicant." A person who, on his own behalf or on behalf of
5 another, applies for [permission to engage in an act or activity
6 that is regulated under the provisions of this part.]

7 registration or a permit, certification, license, qualification,
8 renewal or other credential issued by the board under this part.
9 If the applicant is a person other than an individual, the board
10 shall determine the associated persons whose qualifications are
11 necessary as a precondition to the registration, permit,
12 certification, license, qualification or other credential issued
13 by the board of the applicant.

14 * * *

15 Section 6. Section 3301(b)(8) of Title 4 is amended to read:
16 § 3301. Powers of board.

17 * * *

18 (b) Specific powers.--The board shall have the power and
19 duty:

20 * * *

21 (8) [To require prospective and existing video gaming
22 employees, independent contractors, applicants, permittees
23 and licensees to submit to fingerprinting by the Pennsylvania
24 State Police or its authorized designee. The Pennsylvania
25 State Police or its authorized designee shall submit the
26 fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for
27 purposes of verifying the identity of the individual and
28 obtaining records of criminal arrests and convictions.] In
29 order to ensure the integrity of gaming-related activities in
30 this Commonwealth, to require criminal history record checks

1 for an individual who is a prospective employee, existing
2 employee, independent contractor, applicant or licensee and
3 seeks registration or a permit, certification, license,
4 qualification, renewal or other credential issued by the
5 board under this chapter. The following shall apply:

6 (i) The individual must submit a full set of
7 fingerprints to the Pennsylvania State Police.

8 (ii) The Pennsylvania State Police shall check the
9 fingerprints of the individual against records in the
10 Pennsylvania State Police central repository for the
11 purpose of obtaining a current criminal history record of
12 any criminal arrests and convictions.

13 (iii) The Pennsylvania State Police shall submit the
14 fingerprints of the individual to the Federal Bureau of
15 Investigation for the purpose of verifying the identity
16 of the individual and obtaining a current record of any
17 criminal arrests and convictions.

18 (iv) The Pennsylvania State Police shall forward the
19 results of the criminal history record check to the board
20 for the sole purpose of determining the individual's
21 eligibility for the registration, permit, certification,
22 license, renewal or other qualification. The board may
23 not disseminate the criminal history record check
24 information to any other entity.

25 * * *

26 Section 7. This act shall take effect in 60 days.