

PRESIDENT
Representative Helene Keeley
District 3 - 411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901
T: 302-744-4351 F: 302-577-6701

NATIONAL OFFICE 385 Jordan Road Troy, NY 12180 (518) 687-0615 PHONE (518) 687-0401 FAX

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CONTACT: Susan Nolan NCLGS National Office 518-687-0615

NCLGS ADOPTS GROUNDBREAKING POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNET GAMBLING, OFFERS GUIDANCE TO STATES

<u>Las Vegas, Nevada, January 14, 2015</u>—On January 10, during a special session that concluded more than a year of expert comment and legislative debate, the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS) adopted a groundbreaking U.S. *Policy Framework for the Regulation of Internet Gambling* for states that wish to allow iGambling within their borders as well as for states that do not. Lawmakers adopted the *Framework* during the NCLGS Winter Meeting here, after reviewing the latest round of proposed amendments.

According to NCLGS President Rep. Helene Keeley (DE):

The *Framework* is a unique way to address the challenges and opportunities that come with regulating Internet gambling and offers a real-world approach to ensuring that citizens are protected. Thanks to the input of a myriad of interested parties, the *Framework* is balanced and informed and, I'm proud to say, is a hallmark of NCLGS efforts to date. It's time for states that are inclined to welcome Internet gambling to take an in-depth look at what the *Framework* has to offer.

In general, the *Framework* lays out standards for states that want iGambling and offers various protections for states that don't, as well as promotes security and uniformity in states that may wish to form multijurisdictional iGambling agreements.

The *Framework* addresses, among other topics, player protections, payment processing, problem gambling, age verification, geo-location, and player identification, taxation, regulatory authority, licensing, multijurisdictional agreements, enforcement, and game choice and legality.

Amendments adopted during the January 10 Executive Committee session, among other things:

- N clarify that NCLGS neither supports nor opposes Internet gambling
- N identify specific items that legislation to encourage fair play should address (e.g., technical standards, detection/prevention of cheating and theft, system security, player multi-accounting, retention of all gaming/account/system historical info for ten years)
- N enhance disclosures to consumers
- N allow neighboring jurisdictions to share technology
- § specify additional ways to protect player funds (e.g., trusts or sureties, reimbursement of player funds following cheating/fraud/theft, policies for addressing dormant player accounts, etc.)
- N encourage states entering into multi-jurisdictional agreements to consider equivalent standards related to investigations, enforcement of findings, and criminal prosecutions

A copy of the Framework—as adopted by NCLGS at its Winter Meeting—is attached.

Interested parties that weighed during development of the guidelines included, among others:

- American Gaming Association
- State Rep. Paul Clymer, Pennsylvania
- The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey
- Delaware Park
- Dover Downs
- Kurt Freedlund, Lotto Interactive
- Gaming Laboratories International
- GTECH Corporation
- Interactive Communications International, Inc. (InComm)
- International Social Games Association (ISGA)
- MasterCard Worldwide
- National Council on Problem Gambling
- National Indian Gaming Association
- Netsweeper, Inc.
- North American Association of State & Provincial Lotteries
- Optimal Payment Services, Inc.
- Poker Innovations Ltd.
- Poker Lovers Union
- Brad J. Polizzano, Esq.
- Michael Pollock, Spectrum Gaming
- Congressman Jon Porter, Porter Gordon Silver
- Professor I. Nelson Rose, Gambling And The Law
- Larry Runkle
- Comm. Richard Schuetz, California Gambling Control Commission
- Martin Shapiro, PokerXanadu.com
- Marco Valerio
- Wali Wruble

The NCLGS Winter Meeting took place from January 9 to 11 at the Paris Las Vegas.

NCLGS is the only non-partisan organization of state lawmakers that meets on a regular basis to discuss issues in regard to gaming. NCLGS does not support or oppose gaming, but supports effective regulation and believes that decisions related to gaming should be made by the citizens of the individual states and their elected officials. More information is available at www.nclgs.org.

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