



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 496 Printer's No. 496

Prime Sponsor: Senator Scavello
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

This bill amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to authorize evaluations for gambling disorders for those who are convicted of criminal trespass at a gaming facility after self-excluding from such facilities.

SUMMARY:

This bill adds a new provision to the statute governing criminal trespass, 18 Pa.C.S. § 3503, authorizing a court to direct that certain persons be evaluated to determine if the person has a gambling disorder and whether treatment should be part of the sentence or preadjudication disposition. The evaluation would be performed by a clinician who meets the qualifications prescribed by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. This provision applies to individuals charged with defiant trespass under § 3503(b) who previously placed themselves on the self-exclusion list maintained by licensed gaming entities.

COMMENT:

Current law allows a person to become self-excluded from Pennsylvania gaming facilities. By doing so, the person acknowledges that, upon being discovered on a gaming floor or other areas where gaming activity is conducted, the person will be subject to removal and arrest for criminal trespass under 18 Pa.C.S. § 3503.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This bill is effective in 60 days.

BILL HISTORY:

None.

Prepared by: Cawley 4/21/2017