

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: Senate Bill 919

Printer's No.: 1194

Sponsor: Senator Stack

Prepared by: Gregg Warner

Synopsis: This bill amends the Domestic Relations Code, Title 23 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, to add a section authorizing the interception of gaming winnings to pay child support arrearages.

Summary: New section 4307.1 provides that in the case of any person who plays a slot machine or table game and is entitled to be paid winnings of \$500 or more, the slot machine licensee must notify the Department of Revenue of the winnings. The Department of Revenue shall request the Department of Public Welfare to make all reasonable efforts to determine whether the person owes delinquent support prior to the slot machine licensee making a payment.

Payment

If it is determined that the person does owe support, the amount of any arrearages shall be deducted from the amount of gaming winnings. The Department of Public Welfare shall request the slot machine licensee through the Department of Revenue to pay over that part of the winnings which satisfies the arrearages. The Department of Public Welfare shall pay the amount to the domestic relations section for distribution to the person to whom the child support is owed.

Fee

The Department of Public Welfare shall set a fee which reflects the actual costs it and the Department of Revenue incur in the administration of this section. The fee may be deducted from the amount to be paid to the gaming winner after the gaming winner's support obligation has been satisfied.

Review

A gaming winner whose gaming winnings are used to satisfy a support obligation under this section may appeal to the Department of Public Welfare.

Regulations

The Department of Revenue and the Department of Public Welfare shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to carry out this section.

Effective date

This act takes effect in 60 days.

Background: Senate Bill 919 is modeled after 23 Pa.C.S. §4308 which provides for the interception of lottery winnings for support. While the procedure provided for in section 4308 is the same as the procedure proposed in section 4307.1, the amount of lottery winnings that triggers the review and deduction is \$2,500.