



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

May 5, 2008

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2008-H 7040, As Amended, "An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government."

This act would permit Rhode Island's two gambling facilities, Twin River and Newport Grand to operate video lottery terminals (VLT's) on a twenty-four hour basis on weekends and state and federal holidays. The revenue generated from the additional hours of operation would be deposited into the State treasury, with a small share of the money going to the host communities of Lincoln and Newport.

As I have said repeatedly since debate over this legislation started last year, the host communities should have some say when it comes to deciding the hours of operation for these two facilities. Twin River and Newport Grand are very large entities, attracting thousands of people on a daily basis, and while the State generates significant revenue from their operation, Lincoln and Newport are forced to bear the burdens of having such large facilities opened in their communities.

It is generally the prerogative of cities and towns to set the hours of operations for restaurants, bars, grocery and convenient stores and other businesses. Under the scheme passed by the General Assembly, the people of Lincoln and Newport are at the mercy of large-scale gambling facilities, with no recourse.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Carcieri