

# OHIO CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION

John R. Kasich  
*Governor*



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*Chair*

**Testimony of Matthew T. Schuler, Executive Director  
Ohio Casino Control Commission  
House Bill 32  
House Criminal Justice Committee  
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Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 32.

Article XV, Section 6(C)(4) of the Ohio Constitution established the Casino Control Commission to ensure the integrity of casino gaming in Ohio.

ORC 3772.03(A) further provides that, "to ensure the integrity of casino gaming, the commission shall have authority to complete the functions of licensing, regulating, investigating, and penalizing casino operators, management companies, holding companies, key employees, casino gaming employees, and gaming-related vendors. The commission also shall have jurisdiction over all persons participating in casino gaming authorized by Section 6(C) of Article XV, Ohio Constitution, and this chapter."

To fulfill its Constitutional mission and the statutory requirements of the Casino Control Law, the Commission executes four main functions:

- Responsible Gambling Programs;
- Licensing and Investigations;
- Regulatory Compliance; and
- Enforcement of the Law.

As a law enforcement agency, the Commission, through its gaming agents, is responsible for enforcing the criminal provisions of the Casino Control Law. One of those provisions is the subject of the legislation before you today.

Currently, ORC 3772.99(D)(5) makes it a misdemeanor of the first degree for any casino operator or employee to participate in casino gaming other than as part of employment anywhere in Ohio.

When the bipartisan Casino Control Law was enacted in 2010, this prohibition, common in nearly all gaming jurisdictions, was aimed at mitigating the risk that casino employees would use their internal knowledge of casino operations to cheat at games in collusion with other employees. Out of an abundance of caution, the prohibition was applied to include all casino facilities.

Since the opening of the first casino nearly five years ago, individuals have expressed their displeasure both to the Commission and the members of the General Assembly that the law unfairly requires casino employees to go out of state in order to participate in casino gaming.

When Senator Seitz received such a constituent concern, he inquired with the Commission whether a reasonable alternative to this prohibition would negatively impact the integrity of casino gaming. It would not. After five years of regulating and enforcing the law at Ohio's casinos, we have not had a case of employees from different casinos working in collusion to cheat. In fact, given the systems of surveillance, segregated duties and internal controls unique to each casino operator, it would be difficult to even attempt.

House Bill 32 amends the statute so that casino employees may engage in casino gaming in Ohio, but not at the facility in which she/he is employed or at an affiliated casino in Ohio.

By making this change, Ohio would be in alignment with our neighboring jurisdictions where this approach has proven fair and still maintains the integrity of casino gaming.

Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for again for the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 32.