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**From: Coalition Against Gambling in New York (CAGNY)**

<http://cagnyinf.org>

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**Statement from CAGNY re *Upstate New York Gaming Economic Development Act of 2013***

The *Upstate New York Gaming Economic Development Act of 2013*, passed on 21 June as S05883 (same as A08101), is a case study in bad law-making. The Act purports to guide legislators and, subsequently, the electorate, in deciding whether or not the State Constitution should be amended to permit non-tribal casinos. It was rushed through because casino promoters feared with good reason that the terse language of the proposed amendment leaves too many unknowns to win acceptance at referendum.

Among the many pitfalls in S05883 is Section 32. Intended as a “poison pill” to paralyze opposition to the amendment from all quarters, it would *if the amendment lost* impose an unspecified number of new video lottery terminals (VLTs) on southeastern “upstate” NY. An AP story cites possible numbers (three or four facilities) and possible sizes (up to five thousand VLTs each). These figures, which would double the number of VLTs in the state, are not in the bill, but were confirmed by a spokesperson for the Governor on June 19.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/APbabc9a4fefdc488cb8a30eb9ec800e12.html>

Coalition Against Gambling in New York (CAGNY), an all-volunteer non-profit organization against predatory gambling, opposes the amendment as dangerous to the people of New York State. We will therefore alert the public to the many flaws of the “enabling language” in the amendment’s sidekick S05883 and to the impermanence, the instability of that Act. It guarantees nothing. Its prescriptions could be changed any time by the same legislature that hustled it through on June 21 or any future legislature. It contains a malicious “poison pill” aimed to silence opposition to the amendment.

**CAGNY wants the media of New York State to know that we will not be deterred by the “poison pill” in section 32.** If the voters of our state reject the amendment as we hope, we and allied groups will seek to have section 32 amended and withdrawn by the legislature. The Governor’s “heads I win, tails you lose” tactics have no place in good government. The referendum is about amending the constitution. The amendment promoters have subverted due process to make voters “choose” between two modes of expanded predatory gambling, either of which would be devastating.