Public Hearing- Video Gaming Terminals Feb. 12, 2015

Testifiers:

- John Milliron, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Amusement and Music Machine Association
- Steve Fritz, Owner, Staff Amusements
- Paul Jenson, Partner, Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP

Key Points:

- As many as 40,000 illegal video gaming terminals (VGTs) are currently in Pennsylvania and are unregulated and untaxed.
- VGTs can be programed to offer poker, blackjack, bingo or slot machine-type games.
- VGTs can be wired to a central computer to ensure accountability for every penny placed in the machine or paid out in winnings to the player.
- Other states that legalized VGTs in establishments with liquor licenses include South Dakota, Montana, Louisiana, West Virginia, Oregon and most recently, Illinois.
- Pennsylvania has approximately 13,500 establishments with liquor licenses that could be eligible to receive a license to operate VGTs.
- If 65% of Commonwealth's taverns and restaurants offered a total of 4 VGTs per establishment, the Commonwealth could gain \$500 million dollars annually in additional tax revenue.