



# DIVISION OF GAMBLING CONTROL

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Attorney General

ROBERT E. LYTLE  
Director

NUMBER 8

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

JUNE 15, 2007

## “Poker Night Fundraisers”

As you may know there are many organizations hosting charity poker night fundraisers throughout California. The Division of Gambling Control has been receiving information that there are many organizations not in compliance with AB 839<sup>1</sup>, and continue to host these events without registering.

Currently, the Division conducts background checks on all applicants. The processing time frame is approximately 1 business week. Once eligible applicants are approved, they are issued a Certificate which must be posted where controlled games<sup>2</sup> are being conducted. Example certificates are enclosed for your convenience.

---

<sup>1</sup> Assembly Bill 839 is directed at nonprofit organizations who want to host “poker night” fundraisers using controlled games.

<sup>2</sup> Controlled games as defined in California Penal Code, section 337j(e)(1) are “...any poker or pai gow game, and any other game played with cards or tiles, or both, and approved by the Division of Gambling Control, and any game of chance, including any gaming device, played for currency, check, credit, or any other thing of value that is not prohibited and made unlawful by statute or local ordinance.”

Beginning January 1, 2007, AB 839 was passed allowing eligible nonprofit organizations to hold charity poker night fundraisers using controlled games. Nonprofit organizations and Suppliers of gambling equipment and/or services for such fundraising events must submit an application for registration to the Division for approval. This new law establishes limitations on each fundraising event, including but not limited to, each eligible nonprofit organization can host one fundraiser per any calendar year using controlled games, each event will be limited to no more than five consecutive hours, no more than four fundraisers may occur at the same location, no cash prizes or wagers may be awarded, individual prizes must not exceed a cash value of \$500, and total value of prizes awarded must not exceed a cash value of \$5,000. Additionally, no one under the age of 21 is allowed to participate at these fundraising events.

Division staff work directly with local law enforcement agencies, ABC, and the State Franchise Tax Board to ensure compliance with the provisions and regulations of AB 839.

Regulations for Charitable Gambling are forthcoming. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give us a call or you can visit our website at [www.ag.ca.gov](http://www.ag.ca.gov) and click on the “Gambling Control” link.

*For more information regarding this advisory, contact the California Department of Justice, Division of Gambling Control, at (916) 263-3408.*

We thank you for your cooperation.

Mailing address:

Department of Justice  
Division of Gambling Control  
PO BOX 168024  
Sacramento, CA 95816-8024

UPS/Personal delivery:

Department of Justice  
Division of Gambling Control  
1425 River Park Dr Ste 400  
Sacramento, CA 95815

Contacts:

Esther Garcia - Program Technician II  
Ph: (916) 263-5380  
Fax: (916) 263-0928  
Email: [esther.garcia@doj.ca.gov](mailto:esther.garcia@doj.ca.gov)

TerriSue Canale - Program Manager  
Ph: (916) 263-0372  
Fax: (916) 263-0928

*For more information regarding this advisory, contact the California Department of Justice,  
Division of Gambling Control, at (916) 263-3408.*