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Friends of Rich Alloway

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## Alloway Endorses Changes to Gaming Control Board

State Senate candidate Richard Alloway says he supports initiatives by some Harrisburg legislators to fix portions of the Pennsylvania Gaming Act that may have wrongly permitted individuals to gain lucrative slots gaming licenses.

Alloway, a Republican who is running to succeed retiring State Senator Terry Punt in the 33<sup>rd</sup> district, says the entire country is watching Pennsylvania's new gaming industry and it is essential that the process of vetting out who is qualified to gain a license be fixed now.

"I have been investigating why an individual who is now under indictment received a license to own and operate one of these facilities," Alloway says, "and it is evident that the law failed those who were responsible for making this decision."

Alloway says there are honest and highly qualified persons involved with the state Gaming Control Board, but inadequacies in the gaming law may have prevented a thorough background check on at least one occasion. A number of proposals were offered this week by both State House and Senate members including a number by Dauphin and York County State Senator Jeffrey Piccola.

Among the proposals supported by Alloway to assure that future investigations do not come under public scrutiny are:

- Move the investigative unit currently under the Gaming Control Board under the Attorney General
- Prevent any slots applicant who has ever had a felony conviction from getting a license. The current law, passed in 2004, says an applicant can't have committed a felony in the past 15 years.
- Provide strong subpoena powers to the Gaming Control Board and enable the Board to confer immunity witness
- Require any slots license applicant to ask federal authorities for any data collected on them contained in a Freedom of Information Act file
- Require the Gaming Control Board to hold a public hearing on the qualifications of the applicant rather than permit some of hearings be held in private

Alloway says he has expressed to 33<sup>rd</sup> district voters door to door and at various events that state government must seek to be more transparent, accountable, and efficient.

"Receiving these licenses to participate in gaming in the Commonwealth is a privilege and the Legislature and Governor must move swiftly on making sure it corrects the law to restore public confidence in gaming," Alloway concludes.