

Gambling Act

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Text in Bulgarian: Закон за хазарта

Chapter One

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subject

Article 1

This Act shall regulate the terms and procedure for organisation of, and participation in, games of chance, as well as the control over these activities.

Definition and Participants

Article 2

(1) Gambling shall be any game which involves betting and in which winnings may be obtained or the bet may be lost.

(2) Any legally capable adult, whereon this Act or other laws impose no restrictions, may participate in games of chance. Incapacitated persons may receive tickets or coupons for participation in lotteries, toto and lotto games solely by way of donation.

Exceptions

Article 3

(1) Sports competitions with a purse for the entrants therein shall not be treated as games of chance.

(2) Amusement or sports games, such as: amusement arcade facilities, mini football, billiards or table tennis, darts, bowling, paintball and speedball, mini basketball, bridge, backgammon, etc., shall not be treated as games of chance either, even though the practice thereof requires a bet or it is customarily implied that the losing player shall meet the expenses on the game, provided the bet and winnings are insignificant.

(3) Quizzes which involve answering questions or demonstrating knowledge or skills shall not be treated as games of chance, provided the prizes are not paid out of the admission tickets, telephone charges or any other form of proceeds accruing from the participants.

Licence

Article 4

(1) Games of chance within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be organised and conducted solely by virtue of a licence granted by the State Gambling Commission.

(2) Solely the games of chance provided for in this Act may be organised and are subject to licensing.

(3) A licence shall grant the holder the right to organise solely the games, to manufacture the products and to provide the maintenance services expressly specified therein and shall be non-transferable.

(4) (Supplemented, SG No. 70/2004) It shall be prohibited to organise and conduct games of chance in buildings and areas adjoining them which constitute public state and municipal property, in the installations of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, in educational establishments, healthcare and health facilities, as well as in co-owned properties without a notarized consent in writing given by all co-owners.

Persons Ineligible for Grant of Licence

Article 5

(1) A licence to organise a game of chance, to manufacture playing devices for games of chance, to import and distribute playing devices for gambling business, and to provide maintenance services shall be denied to any sole trader or legal person, including the cases of "connected persons" within the meaning of § 1 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Commercial Act, where any of the following conditions exists:

1. (the applicant is) an owner, majority partner, manager, member of a management body of a corporation or not-for-profit organisation has been convicted of a premeditated offence at public law, unless reinstated;

2. any person covered under Item 1 has been adjudicated in bankruptcy, leaving any creditors unsatisfied, and less than three years have elapsed since the effective date of the adjudication in bankruptcy by the court;

3. (amended, SG No. 103/1999, SG No. 105/2005) any person covered under Item 1 has evaded taxation of any income, revenue, profits, property and transactions therein, and this evasion has been duly established by an effective assessment decision or an effective penalty decree, and less than three years have elapsed since the effective date of the decision or decree;

4. any person covered under Item 1, in the capacity of owner, partner, manager, member of a management or supervisory body of a corporation or a not-for-profit organisation, has participated in a corporation (corporations, or as

sole trader) whereof the gambling licence has been definitively revoked or which (or who) has been penalized for unlicensed conduct of gambling, or which (or who) has outstanding obligations to the Exchequer, ascertained according to the procedure established by Item 3.

(2) A licence to organise a game of chance shall furthermore be denied where any person, directly linked to the conduct of the game or the management of the gambling hall or casino has been convicted of a premeditated offence at public law, unless rehabilitated, and the circumstances under Paragraph 1, Items 3 and 4, do not exist.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 79/2005) A licence to organise a game of chance shall be denied where any persons referred to in Article 6, Paragraph 1, Items 1-5 as well the owners, partners, managers, members of a management or supervisory body of any such persons, have been denied a licence to organize gambling business or have had such a licence revoked in any Member State of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and this has been confirmed in official correspondence by the competent authorities of the respective State, in the cases under Article 20, Paragraph 4, as well as where the origin of the capital is not proven.

(4) (Supplemented, SG No. 103/1999, amended, SG No. 79/2005) Any persons referred to in Article 6, Paragraph 1, Item 3, as well as any representatives of persons referred to in Article 6, Paragraph 1, Items 1-5, shall submit a notarized affidavit on the circumstances specified in Paragraph 1, Items 2, 3 and 4 and Paragraph 3, a conviction status certificate, a statement of financial position and property status, as well as other official documents as shall be necessary for obtaining a licence, as specified in an ordinance issued according to the procedure established by Article 17, Paragraph 2.

(5) The declarants shall incur criminal liability for any false statement.

Organisers of Games of Chance

Article 6

(1) Games of chance may be organised by:

1. Bulgarian commercial corporations satisfying the requirements of this Act;
2. (new, SG No. 79/2005) commercial companies, registered in a European Union Member State, as well as in another European Economic Area Member State, conforming to the requirements of this Act;
3. (renumbered from item 2 - SG, No. 79/2005) sole traders: solely games of chance played on gambling slot-machines;
4. (Renumbered from item 3 - amended, SG, No. 79/2005) not-for-profit legal persons designated for performing activities in the public interest, registered under the Not-for-Profit Legal Persons Act : in the cases provided for in this Act;
5. (New, SG No. 79/2005) not-for-profit legal persons, registered in a European Union Member State, as well as in another European Economic Area Member State, by means of a branch, designated for performing activities in the public interest in the cases provided for in this Act, with the exception of political parties;
6. (Renumbered from item 4 - SG, No. 79/2005) the State: solely for assistance of sports, culture, health care, education and social welfare.

(2) The organisers of games of chance liable to final tax under Article 2a of the Corporate Income Tax Act may not carry on any other business under the Commercial Act, including manufacture of gambling devices, with the exception of organising games of chance and auxiliary and subsidiary activities in connection with such games.

(3) Any organisers other than such referred to in Paragraph 2 may furthermore pursue another business under the Commercial Act. They may not pursue manufacture and distribution of gambling devices.

(4) The restriction under Paragraph 2 shall not apply to not-for profit legal persons, with regard to the registered objects.

Foreign Persons

Article 7

(1) (Previous Article 7, SG No. 79/2005) Foreign persons may participate in the corporations referred to in Article 6, Paragraph 1, Item 1, in the cases where such corporations:

1. organise games of chance in a gambling casino with a hotel, provided the corporation has purchased or constructed the hotel which has been awarded a rating of four stars or a higher star rating, or
2. have invested resources amounting to no less than the lev equivalent of 10,000,000 United States dollars, translated along the exchange rate of the Bulgarian National Bank and have created not fewer than 500 jobs, in the organisation of another activity as well within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria within one year after the issuance of the license.

(2) (New, SG No. 79/2005) Paragraph 1 shall not apply to foreign persons, registered in a European Union Member State, as well as in another European Economic Area Member State or which are citizens of such states.

Games of Chance for Charity Purposes

Article 8

(1) (Amended, SG, No.79 of 2005) Persons under Article 6, paragraph 1, items 4 and 5 may organise solely accidental lotteries and raffles for charity purposes.

(2) Games of chance under Paragraph 1 may be organised exclusively for a charity purpose declared in advance and approved by the State Gambling Commission.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) A license under Paragraph 1 shall be issued proceeding from an application enclosing an estimate of revenue and expenditures. The spending of the net income after taxation on the charity purpose as declared shall be verified by the State Gambling Commission.

Games of Chance Organised by the State

Article 9

(1) (Amended, SG No. 53/2000, 75/2002, SG No. 103/2005) The State may organise solely lottery, toto and lotto games and betting on the outcome of sports competitions through state-owned enterprises with the Ministry of Finance and the Bulgarian Sports Totalizator with the State Agency for Youth and Sports, which are not commercial corporations and whose capital is wholly state-owned.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 53/2000, 75/2002, SG No. 103/2005) The rules of organisation of the enterprises referred to in Paragraph 1 shall be subject to approval by the Council of Ministers. The management bodies of these legal persons shall be appointed by the Minister of Finance, and those of the Bulgarian Sports Totalizator shall be appointed by the chairman of the State Agency for Youth and Sports.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 75/2002) The use of income after taxation and deduction of expenditures and winnings paid out, shall be endorsed by:

1. (amended, SG No. 103/2005) the Minister of Finance in accordance with plans proposed by the Chairman of the State Agency for Youth and Sports - in relation to revenue from the Bulgarian Sports Totalizator for the purposes of physical education and sports, as well as in relation to maintenance, repair and new construction of sports facilities in schools; the Chairman of the State Agency for Youth and Sports shall allocate funds for maintenance, repair and new construction of sports facilities in schools based on a proposal by the Minister of Education and Science;

2. (amended, SG No. 79/2005) the Minister of Finance - in relation to revenue from other enterprises under para. 1 - for the other purposes covered under Article 6, Paragraph 1, Item 6.

Advertising of Games of Chance

Article 10

(1) The direct advertising of games of chance through the mass communication media shall be prohibited.

(2) It shall be admissible to announce the procedure and manner for participation and the terms for the conduct of bingo and keno lotteries, toto and lotto games, as well as betting on the outcome of sports competitions, the betting on uncertain events and the guessing of facts and events of the results thereof, as well as to televise the holding of drawings.

Bets and Winnings, Granting Credit Prohibited

Article 11

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Games of chance shall be organised with bets and winnings in Bulgarian lev terms only. It shall be admissible to organize games of chance at gambling casinos with bets and winnings in foreign currency by advance permission of the State Gambling Commission.

(2) It shall be prohibited for the organisers of games of chance to grant credit in any form whatsoever to a participant or participants in games of chance, except for payment initiated by credit cards accepted to the organisers.

Betting through Telecommunication Facilities

Article 12

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) A bet may consist in an increase of the charge for a telephone or another telecommunications link. The telecommunications operator must satisfy itself in advance that the game is licensed according to the procedure established by this Act.

(2) Upon betting by telephone or another telecommunication facility, the bet shall be presumed to be made by the natural or legal person who or which is the owner or legal user of the medium.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) It shall be prohibited to bet by the telephones and other telecommunication facilities of central government and municipal institutions and enterprises, including health, social and cultural establishments, and in case of non-observance of this prohibition, any winnings shall be credited in revenue to the respective budget.

Chapter Two

STATE SUPERVISION OF GAMBLING

Section I

Bodies

Article 13

(Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The state supervision of gambling shall be exercised by the State Gambling Commission with the Minister of Finance.

Restrictions

Article 14

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The members of the State Gambling Commission and the employees therein may not enter, whether directly or indirectly, into any transactions or business relationships whatsoever with any organisers of games of chance, manufacturers of gambling devices, importers and distributors or maintenance service organisations, their

managers or employees, even in the capacity of experts, consultants or in any other form whatsoever

(2) No persons covered under Paragraph 1 may take part in the organisation and conduct of games of chance whether directly or as undisclosed principals. Any such persons may not acquire interests or shares in commercial corporations whereof the objects are participation in the organisation and conduct of games of chance, nor participate in the management and supervisory bodies of any such corporations.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) No persons covered under Paragraph 1 may incorporate or be members of any not-for-profit legal persons organising games of chance according to the procedure established by this Act.

(4) The prohibition under Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall furthermore apply to the spouses and lineal relatives up to any degree of any persons covered under Paragraph 1 for the entire duration of discharge of their duties.

Section II

State Gambling Commission

Article 15

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) There shall be established a State Gambling Commission with the Minister of Finance, hereinafter referred to as the State Commission. The State Commission shall be a public-financed legal person with a head office in Sofia.

(2) (Amended, SG Nos. 1 and 102/2001) The State Commission shall consist of a chairperson and four members, of whom at least three shall be qualified lawyers, and all shall have to possess a relevant experience of not less than five years. The Chairperson and the members of the State Commission shall be appointed by the Minister of Finance. The Chairperson shall direct the activity of the State Commission and shall represent it.

(3) Eligibility for membership of the State Commission shall be limited to Bulgarian citizens holding a degree of higher education, possessing professional accomplishments and moral integrity, who have not been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for a premeditated offence at public law.

(4) (Amended, SG Nos. 1 and 102/2001) The activity of the State Commission shall be assisted and implemented by a general and specialized administration whereof the structure and work organization shall be determined by rules of organization adopted by the Council of Ministers.

(5) (New, SG No. 102/2001) The staff size of the State Commission shall be endorsed by the Minister of Finance on motion by the Chairperson of the State Commission.

Financing

Article 16

(Amended, SG 102/2001)

(1) The activity of the State Commission shall be financed from the national budget through the Ministry of Finance.

(2) The proceeds from deductions at the rate of 25 per cent of the fees collected under this Act, as well as the additional budget revenues constituting fines, pecuniary penalties, confiscated playing devices and cash resources detected and collected under penalty decrees issued under this law, shall accrue and be disbursed solely for development of the facilities, for continuing education and incentives to the employees of the State Commission according to a procedure established by an order issued by the Chairperson of the State Commission.

(3) The State Commission shall mandatorily insure the employees thereof against accident for the account of the budget of the State Commission.

Acts of Subordinate Legislation

(Title amended, SG No.102/2001)

Article 17

(Amended, SG No. 1/2001)

(1) (Repealed, SG No. 102/2001).

(2) Acting on motion by the State Commission, the Council of Ministers shall adopt the ordinances and rate schedules provided for under this Act.

Competence

Article 18

(1) The State Gambling Commission shall be competent to:

1. (supplemented, SG No. 103/1999) grant, refuse to grant and revoke licences to organize games of chance to and from persons eligible to organize such games;

2. (supplemented, SG No. 103/1999) grant, refuse to grant and revoke licenses of organisers of games of chance under Item 1 to pursue or, respectively, to suspend and/or discontinue the operation of such organisers in individual establishments;

3. (supplemented, SG No. 103/1999) grant, refuse to grant and revoke the licenses of manufacturers of playing devices for games of chance, of importers and distributors and of service organisations responsible for the repair and maintenance of such equipment;

4. (amended, SG No. 102/2001) adopt mandatory general terms of gambling for the different types of games of

chance which it licenses, as well as the rules for organisation and conduct of the different games of chance;

5. (amended, SG No. 102/2001) approve mandatory general requirements for gambling halls and gambling casinos with regard to the type of premises or building, the minimum floor space, the allocation of premises and the necessary technical control equipment;

6. (amended, SG No. 102/2001) approve mandatory general technical requirements for the control systems regarding games of chance, gambling slot-machines, gambling tables and other playing devices;

7. (amended, SG No. 102/2001, 95/2005) endorse a list of the types and modifications of gambling slot-machines and other playing devices which may be manufactured, imported and operated in Bulgaria, as approved by the Bulgarian Metrology Institute, as well as of the laboratories referred to in Article 79, paragraph 2;

8. endorse the mandatory standard forms of tickets, coupons, cards and other tokens certifying participation in games of chance;

9. endorse mandatory standard formats for financial reporting of the different types of games of chance and mandatory rules for work organisation and financial control in the conduct of games of chance;

10. (amended, SG No. 102/2001) endorse a standard form of a declaration whereby the members of the State Commission undertake to respect the confidentiality of any facts and circumstances as shall come to the knowledge thereof in the discharge of their official duties;

11. (new, SG No. 102/2001, amended, SG No. 105/2005) approve rules and systems for reporting of information on the accumulation and distribution of winnings; these systems must ensure the transmission of the requisite data to the information system of the National Revenue Agency according to mutually agreed rules, prior to the holding of a successive drawing or prior to the occurrence of an event determining the distribution of winnings, where this shall be required under this Act;

12. (new, SG No. 102/2001) endorse the rules referred to in Items 4, 5 and 6 as submitted by the organizers of games of chance;

13. (New, SG No. 102/2001) keep registers.

(2) The organisers of games of chance, who or which import gambling slot-machines and facilities for their own needs, shall not be required to obtain a licence under Paragraph 1, Item 3.

(3) (New, SG No. 102/2001) The State Commission shall exercise control over the entire organization and conduct of gambling business, as well as over the operation of the manufacturers of playing devices for games of chance, of the importers, distributors and service organizations engaged in the maintenance and repair of such devices.

(4) (New, SG No. 102/2001) The State Commission shall receive the written applications for the issuance of licences under this Act, shall check and investigate the said applications, and shall pass upon them by means of reasoned decisions which it shall enter into the relevant registers.

Grounds to Initiate Proceedings

Article 19

(1) (Amended, SG No. 103/1999) Proceedings before the State Commission shall be initiated on the grounds of written applications for the issuance of the instruments covered under Article 18, Paragraph 1.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The written applications and the enclosures therewith as specified by an ordinance issued in pursuance of Article 17, Paragraph 2, shall be submitted to the State Commission and, after the conduct of the necessary checks and investigations, the Chairpersons shall introduce them for consideration before the State Commission by a reasoned motion.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Where the documents as submitted shall be deficient or non-conforming to the mandatory requirements, or where any additional information shall be needed, within 14 days after receipt of the written application the State Commission shall notify the applicant and shall give the said applicant a 30-day time limit, reckoned from the receipt of the notification, to eliminate the irregularities or submit additional information.

(4) (New, SG No. 102/2001) Within the time limit established under Paragraph 3, the applicant must eliminate the irregularities or submit the necessary additional information, and upon failure to perform this obligation the State Commission shall refuse to issue the requested application, and the applicant shall forfeit any fees paid theretofore.

(5) (Renumbered from Paragraph 5, SG No. 102/2001) The provisions of the Administrative Procedure Code shall apply to the proceedings before the State Commission, save in the cases where other time limits are provided for in this Act.

Meetings of the State Commission

Article 20

(1) The meetings of the State Commission may be attended by the parties and departments concerned, including branch organisations of organisers of games of chance, who shall be notified of the date and time of the meeting whereat the application submitted shall be considered. In all cases, the decisions shall be announced to the public.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The State Commission may order the applicant, the representatives thereof and the persons covered under Article 5, Paragraph 1, Item 1 to appear in person in order to answer specific questions regarding circumstances relevant to determination on the application.

(3) The persons who are ordered to appear in person shall receive a written communication from the State Commission stating the questions which the said persons are expected to answer and the additional information which they are expected to provide, and the State Commission shall warn them about the consequences incurable under Article 5, Paragraph 3 in case of failure to perform this obligation.

(4) The State Commission may hold that the circumstances under Paragraph 2 are clarified and may refuse to issue a license, where the person has failed to appear in order to answer the questions, has acted obstructively or has refused to answer, as well as where the said person has given incomplete or unclear answers or has failed to produce the required information.

Quorum and Decision-Making

Article 21

(1) For the valid transaction of business at any meeting, not fewer than four of the members of the State Commission shall have to be present thereat.

(2) Having held that the circumstances of the application are clarified, the State Commission shall conclude the consideration of the said application and shall adopt a decision. Any such decision shall proceed from the circumstances of the application held as established by the State Commission and from the law.

(3) Any decision shall be adopted after deliberation in private by open ballot, provided at least three of the members of the State Commission who attended the meeting whereat the application was considered have vote in favour.

(4) None of the members may abstain from voting.

(5) A member of the State Commission who dissents from the majority shall sign the decision, attaching separately the reasoned dissenting opinion thereof.

(6) The State Commission shall furthermore take into consideration any intervening facts relevant to a determination of an application.

(7) Any decision shall state:

1. the designation of the issuing authority;
2. the designation of the instrument;
3. the grounds of fact and in law for issuance of the instrument;
4. an operative part, specifying the rights or obligations, the manner and time limit for performance;
5. the appeals instance and the time limit for lodgment of an appeal against the instrument;
6. the date of issue and signatures of the Chairperson, the member and the minute-taking clerk of the State

Commission.

(8) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The State Commission shall announce the decision with the reasoning not later than seven days after the meeting by means of entry into the relevant register, and shall communicate the said decision to the parties concerned.

(9) Having announced a decision, the State Commission may neither revoke nor modify it on its own initiative.

(10) Acting on its own initiative or where so requested by the party concerned, the State Commission may solely correct any apparent errors of fact as may be made in a decision.

(11) The decision on the correction shall be appealable according to the procedure for appealability of the decision itself.

(12) The party concerned may request that the decision be supplemented if the State Commission has failed to pronounce on the entire application. Such a request may be submitted within one month after the date of entry of the decision according to the procedure established by Paragraph 8.

(13) The State Commission shall consider the request and shall pronounce by means of a supplementary decision which shall be appealable according to the standard procedure.

Grounds for Recusal and Challenge

Article 22

(1) A member of the State Commission shall be obliged to recuse himself or herself on the following grounds:

1. if the said member has been in an employment or civil-law relationship with the submitter of the application;
2. if, owing to other circumstances, the said member may be deemed to be prejudiced or interested, whether directly or indirectly, in the decision on the application as submitted.

(2) In the cases under Paragraph 1, the submitters of the application may challenge a member of the State Commission.

(3) The State Commission shall make decisions on any recusal or challenge as moved according to the procedure established by Article 21, Paragraph 3.

Duty to Cooperate

Article 23

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The persons covered under Article 6, Paragraph 1, any employees thereof, as well as any other office holder shall be obligated to cooperate with the State Commission and the officers therein in the discharge

of the duties entrusted thereto by the law by means of ensuring access to premises, giving oral and written explanations, as well as providing documents and other information mediums.

(2) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 102/2001, amended, SG No. 95/2005) Should access be denied or information be not provided to the officers in the State Commission, the said officers shall be entitled to assistance from the authorities of the prosecuting magistracy, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Finance and the Bulgarian Metrology Institute, which shall be obliged to render the assistance as requested within the scope of their competence, as specified by law.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Where a check or an investigation is conducted by the State Commission, office holders may not invoke any official, industrial or trade secret, with the exception of protected intellectual property and professional secrecy.

Use of Documents and Non-disclosure

Article 24

(1) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 102/2001) Any documentation and information received by the officers in the State Commission in the course of an investigation may only be used thereby for the purpose of the said investigation, unless another use is requested in writing by a state body where so provided for by law.

(2) (Amended and supplemented, SG Nos. 1 and 102/2001) The members of the State Commission and the officers thereof shall not disclose any circumstances or facts as have come to the knowledge thereof in the course of, or in connection with, the discharge of their official duties under this Act, unless required to do so in writing by a state body where so provided for by law.

(3) In connection with the duties thereof under Paragraph 2, the persons specified in the said Paragraph shall sign a declaration according in a standard form wherein the liability incurred thereby shall also be expressly stated.

Appeal

Article 25

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001, No. 30/2006, effective 1.03.2007) The decisions of the State Commission shall be appealable as to legal conformity before the Sofia City Administrative Court within 14 days after their communication.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Any appeals against decisions of the State Commission shall be considered according to the procedure established by the Administrative Procedure Code.

Entry of Decisions into Force

Article 26

The decisions of the State Commission shall enter into force where:

1. an appeal has not been lodged against them within the prescribed time limits;
2. an appeal as lodged has not been granted.

Fees

Article 27

(1) For performance of the action on any application and for the issuance of licences under this Act, stamp duty shall be payable according to a rate schedule approved by the Council of Ministers.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 103/1999) The stamp duty under Paragraph 1 shall be non-refundable regardless of the decision of the State Commission.

(3) (New, SG No. 103/1999) At the request of the persons concerned, the fees for the issuance of licenses may be paid in equal instalments within a period not exceeding one year.

Section III

Operation of the Insurance and Gambling Supervision Agency

(Title Amended, SG No. 1/2001)

Article 28

(Repealed, SG No. 1/2001)

Financing

Article 29

(Repealed, SG No. 102/2001)

Control functions

Article 30

(Repealed, SG No. 102/2001)

Communication and Appeal of Instruments

Article 31

(1) (Amended, SG No.102/2001) The penalty decrees issued by the Chairperson of the State Commission for violations under this Act shall be communicated and appealed according to the procedure established by the Administrative Infractions and Penalties Act.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Any person who has acquired or lost a right as a result of an instrument issued by

the Chairperson of the State Commission, or whose legal interest has been affected by any such instrument, may receive a certified copy of the instrument.

Coordination

Article 32

(Amended, SG No. 1/2001, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 95/2005)

Where necessary, the State Commission shall request opinions from the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Finance and the Bulgarian Metrology Institute. The procedure and manners of coordination shall be established in the rules of organization and operation of the State Commission.

Newsletter

Article 33

(Supplemented, SG No. 1/2001, amended, SG No 102/2001)

The State Commission shall publish a monthly newsletter carrying the licences as issued and revoked under this Act, announcing the dates of the meetings of the State Commission, carrying decisions reasoning the issuance or refusal to issue licences, and case law on decisions appealed, as well as any other information relevant to gambling business.

Time Limits

Article 34

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The checks and investigations on any application for the issuance of licences must be concluded by the State Commission within one month after receipt of the written application. In case of special factual and legal complexity, this time limit may be extended to two months by a reasoned decision of the Chairperson of the State Commission.

(2) Any licence shall be issued by the State Commission for a maximum term of five years, save as where the applicant has expressly requested a license for accidental organisation or has requested a licence for a shorter term of validity.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Where the investments in assets as proven to the State Commission exceed BGN 500,000, the gambling licence shall be issued for a term of ten years, save as where the applicant has expressly requested a licence of shorter term of validity.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The State Commission may revoke a licence as issued for violations of the provisions of this Act or the instruments for its application or any other instruments regulating gambling business, prior to the expiration of the term of validity of the licence.

(5) After a licence is issued, in addition to current checks, a mandatory full check shall be conducted at the end of the first year and once in three years during the term of validity of the licence, to verify observance of the effective legislation regulating gambling business, provided that no violations have been detected during the said period.

Extension of Validity

Article 35

(Amended, SG No. 102/2001)

Where, prior to the expiration of the term of validity for which a licence has been issued, an application is submitted for extension of the term of validity of the licence and no violations under this Act have been detected in the business of the applicant theretofore, the State Commission may extend the licence for the same term of validity provided that the applicant has paid half of the fee of issuance of the original licence and submits a notarized declaration that no circumstances constituting an impediment to the pursuit of gambling business under this Act have occurred prior to submission of the application for extension.

Chapter Three

GAMES OF CHANCE

Section I

Types of Games of Chance

Article 36

(1) The games of chance, which may be licensed and organised under this Act, shall comprehend lotteries, raffles, toto, lotto, bingo and keno numbers lotteries, games played on gambling slot machines and other similar devices, board games in a gambling casino and betting on the outcome of sports competitions and uncertain events.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 103/1999) The rules for organisation and conduct of any game of chance shall be endorsed according to the procedure established by Article 18, Paragraph 1.

(3) The accumulation and distribution of a jackpot under the conditions defined by the rules of the games shall be permissible in games of chance according to the provisions of this Act.

Section II

Lotteries

Article 37

(1) Lotteries shall be games of chance in which the winnings are announced and distributed publicly by the drawing of lots according to a scheme announced in advance, and the winnings are due when a certain number, combination of

numbers, sign, figure or other such are uncovered or when a winning ticket is drawn.

(2) Lotteries may be:

1. regular: recurring after fixed intervals of time;
2. accidental.

(3) The rules for the conduct of lotteries shall be announced in advance in an appropriate manner. The game plan shall contain a set quantity of tickets with serial numbers. If the tickets are divided into several series, each series shall contain an equal number of tickets, and a series together with the serial number must be marked on every ticket. The selling price of tickets in every lottery must be the same for all series. The winning tickets shall be drawn from a pool composed of all tickets issued.

(4) (Supplemented, SG No. 103/1999, amended, SG No. 102/2001) Any tickets for participation in lotteries shall be printed, imported and destroyed according to the provisions of the Ordinance on the Terms and Procedure for Securities Printing and Control, issued by the Minister of Finance, and any such activities must be carried out by a printing establishments or by importers of tickets or of ticket paper approved by the Minister of Finance. Unused tickets shall be destroyed by the issuers in the presence of gambling control officers designated in an order by the Chairperson of the State Commission, and a memorandum shall be drawn on any such destruction.

(5) Before the issuance of any coupons, tickets and other tokens certifying participation in lotteries, the applicant shall submit specimens thereof to the State Commission for approval by type and production cost.

(6) Tickets for participation in lotteries shall be bearer securities.

(7) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 105/2005) Lotteries must be equipped with rules and systems, approved by the State Commission, for reporting of information on the accumulation and distribution of winnings. These systems must ensure the transmission of the requisite data to the information system of the National Revenue Agency according to mutually agreed rules, prior to the holding of a successive drawing or prior to the occurrence of an event determining the distribution of winnings.

Holding of Drawings

Article 38

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The drawing of lotteries shall be held in public and in the presence of authorised representatives of the organiser and of the State Commission, whereupon at least 50 percent of the amount of proceeds shall be apportioned among the participants in the form of winnings: cash prizes or merchandise awards. The proportion between the winnings in cash and items of merchandise shall be determined by the rules of the game as approved by the State Commission.

(2) The delivery of the cash prizes or merchandise awards shall be guaranteed by the organiser.

Section III

Toto and Lotto Games

Definition

Article 39

(1) Toto and lotto games are games of chance, where bets are made on one or more competing combinations of numbers, a set quantity of numbers are drawn, and a prize is awarded to the player who has forecast correctly these numbers or combinations of numbers. The prize is calculated on the basis of the possible combinations, on the basis of the numbers played and the number of combinations achieved, or it is calculated as an amount of money which is an exactly fixed multiple of a single bet.

(2) The rules for conduct of toto and lotto games and in the varieties thereof shall be endorsed by the State Commission and shall be announced in advance in an appropriate manner.

(3) The cards, coupons and other tokens certifying participation in the games shall be printed, delivered and destroyed according to the procedure established by Article 37, Paragraph 4.

(4) Prior to the issuance of any cards, coupons and other tokens certifying participation in any games under Paragraph 1, the applicant shall submit specimens thereof to the State Commission for endorsement. They shall not be treated as bearer securities.

(5) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 105/2005) Toto and lotto games must be equipped with rules and systems, approved by the State Commission, for reporting of information on the accumulation and distribution of winnings. These systems must ensure the transmission of the requisite data to the information system of the National Revenue Agency according to mutually agreed rules, prior to the holding of a successive drawing or prior to the occurrence of an event determining the distribution of winnings.

Holding of Drawings

Article 40

(Amended, SG No. 102/2001)

(1) The drawings of toto and lotto games shall be held in public and in the presence of authorised representatives of the organiser and of the State Commission, whereupon at least 50 per cent of the amount of proceeds shall be apportioned

among the participants in the form of prizes: cash prizes or merchandise awards.

(2) The delivery of the cash prizes or merchandise awards shall be guaranteed by the organizer.

Section IV

Bingo and Keno Numbers Lotteries

Definition and Requirements

Article 41

(1) Bingo and keno games are numbers lotteries, where neither the number of players nor the value of the bet, i. e. the number of tickets issued and the selling price per ticket, are predetermined. The prize is calculated according to the number of the winners and a predetermined share of the total amount of the bets in the game.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Bingo and keno gambling halls must be separated from other types of games of chance and must conform to the provision of Article 4, Paragraph 4, must have seating accommodation for not fewer than 200 participants, must satisfy the requirements of sanitation and hygiene, must be located in population centres of not fewer than 50,000 residents, with the exception of tourist and hotel facilities in the border areas, and must be separated by a minimum distance of 300 metres, measured graphically along the median divider of the shortest pedestrian route, from any primary or secondary educational establishment or military barracks, unless located at a hotel which has been awarded three stars or a higher star rating by the Ministry of Economy.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 103/1999, No. 102/2001, SG No. 95/2005) The requirements for approval and testing of the playing devices, as well as the procedure for the initial and periodic inspections, shall be set according to the procedure established by Article 18, Paragraph 1, in coordination with the Bulgarian Metrology Institute .

(4) (New, SG No. 102/2001) The rules, manners, technical methods and requirements for measurement of the separation under Paragraph 2 shall be established by an ordinance issued according to the procedure established by Article 17, Paragraph 2 on motion by the State Commission and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

Participation Cards

Article 42

(Amended, SG No. 102/2001)

(1) The cards for participation shall be bearer securities issued by the State, and the provisions of Article 37, Paragraphs 4 and 5, shall apply in respect of them.

(2) (Repealed, SG No. 110/2001)

Winner

Article 43

The winner shall be the player who has covered options of numbers or combinations of numbers composed of numbers printed on a card purchased in advance. The quantity of the numbers or of the combinations thereof shall be approved in advance according to the procedure established by Article 18, Paragraph 1, Item 4 and shall be announced in the gambling hall in an appropriate manner.

Winning Numbers and Payment of Prizes

Article 44

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The winning numbers or combinations shall be announced by means of a public drawing, and the cash prizes or merchandise awards shall be delivered immediately after their announcement.

(2) The amount distributable in the form of prizes may not be less than 50 percent of the total value of the cards.

Pooled Jackpot

Article 45

(1) A pooled jackpot may be accumulated and distributed in bingo and keno numbers lotteries.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) In the cases under Paragraph 1, the organiser shall be obligated to ensure the systems for reporting of information under Article 18, Paragraph 1, Item 11.

(3) (Supplemented, SG No. 102/2001) The amount of deductions, the merchandise awards and the terms for payment of the jackpot shall be specified in the rules of the game, and the jackpot may not be appropriated by the organiser.

(4) The procedure and manner for fulfilment of the obligation under Paragraph 3 shall be established by the State Commission.

Section V

Raffles

Definition

Article 46

(1) Raffles are accidental or repeated games of chance, whereof the pool is limited to the tickets sold.

(2) Raffle tickets shall be bearer securities. The provisions of Article 37, Paragraphs 4 through 6, shall apply to any such tickets.

Prizes

Article 47

(1) Prizes in raffles shall be announced and distributed in public, by drawing lots according to a scheme announced in advance, the winner being the participant who has identified a sign or a figure or who has fulfilled another condition upon the drawing of the ticket. Tickets shall be sold and prizes shall be paid out or delivered according to the procedure established by Article 18, Paragraph 1, Item 4.

(2) The amount and/or the value of the merchandise award distributable in the form of prizes may not be less than 50 percent of the total value of the tickets.

Organisation of Games

Article 48

Raffles shall be organised in public, affording the audience an opportunity to follow the rules of the game and the distribution of prizes.

Organisers

Article 49

(Amended, SG Nos. 1 and 102/2001) Raffles may be organised solely by not-for-profit organisations. The controlling authorities of the State Commission shall monitor the spending of the proceeds from any such games to conform to the purposes as announced in advance and approved.

Section VI

Slot-Machine Games

Definition

Article 50

(1) (Previous Article 50, SG No. 102/2001) A gambling slot machine is a device which is actuated by coin, token, button or another method. The choice of a winning or losing combination in a gambling slot-machine shall be randomized by a mechanical, electrical mechanical or electronic device, and the machine or the organiser shall pay the prize to the player.

(2) (New, SG No. 102/2001) In a gambling slot-machine, it shall be possible to use multichannel interface with the players.

Requirements and Restrictions

Article 51

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 95/2005) The requirements for approval and testing of the playing devices, as well as the procedure for the initial and periodic inspections, shall be set in an ordinance issued by the Council of Ministers on motion by the Bulgarian Metrology Institute and by the State Commission.

(2) It shall be prohibited to use gambling devices outside gambling halls, casinos and halls for organization of betting on the outcome of sports events, licensed under this Act, as well as to use such devices which, after repair, have not been provided for inspection according to the procedure established by Paragraph 1.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 94/2005) A gambling hall must satisfy the mandatory requirements under Article 18, Paragraph 1, Item 5 and must be separated by a minimum distance of 300 metres, measured graphically along the median divider of the shortest pedestrian route, from any primary or secondary educational establishment or military barracks, unless located at a hotel which has been awarded three stars or a higher star rating by the Chairman of the State Agency on Tourism.

(4) (New, SG No. 102/2001) The rules, manners, technical methods and requirements for measurement of the separation under Paragraph 3 shall be established by the ordinance under Article 41, Paragraph 4.

Jackpot in Gambling Slot-Machines

Article 52

(1) Gambling slot-machines may be interconnected for the purpose of offering a special prize or "jackpot", i. e. an amount accumulated as a result of deductions from each bet in the connected gambling slot-machines, which must be located in the same gambling hall or in halls interfaced in an electronic network, or in a gambling casino, as the case may be.

(2) Up to 5 percent of the bets may be used to accumulate and distribute a jackpot according to the procedure and under the terms established by Article 45, Paragraph 3.

(3) The amount of deductions and the terms and conditions for payment of the jackpot shall be specified in the rules of the game, and the jackpot may not be appropriated by the organiser.

Rate of Return on the Bets

Article 53

Any gambling slot-machine must ensure a rate of return for the players which is at least 80 percent of the total amount of the bets, and must have a device in-built by the manufacturer for current control by the organiser and the gambling control authorities.

Marking and Conditions for Conduct of Games

Article 54

(1) Each gambling slot-machine must bear a legible original marking showing the works number thereof, the year of

manufacture or modification and reconditioning, and the business name of the manufacturer.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 95/2005) It shall be inadmissible to import and sell gambling slot-machines of a type which has not been approved in advance by the State Commission, acting on a written certificate issued by the Bulgarian Metrology Institute, on a request for testing submitted by the importer or seller, except for single machines intended for testing for the purposes of type approval.

Gambling Hall

Article 55

(1) A gambling hall must satisfy the mandatory requirements under Article 18, Paragraph 1, Item 5 and the other requirements under this Act, must be separated from another type of games of chance, must conform to the provisions of Article 4, Paragraph 4, and must comply with the requirements of sanitation and hygiene.

(2) The gambling slot-machines in a single gambling hall may not be fewer than:

1. (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) twenty, in population centres with more than 50,000 residents;
2. ten, in any other population centres, as well as in the tourist resort centres.

(3) The minimum floor space for installation and operation of a gambling slot-machine shall be 2 square metres.

(4) It shall be prohibited:

1. (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) to keep any inoperative playing devices, in respect of which no excise duty has been paid, in gambling halls and casinos; all playing devices located in a gambling hall or a casino, including the storage premises therewith, shall be presumed to be operative;

2. to use any gambling slot-machines and devices which have not been approved by the State Commission and which do not satisfy the requirements under Article 51.

(5) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 95/2005) The controlling authorities of the State Commission, jointly with the Bulgarian Metrology Institute, shall periodically inspect the gambling slot-machines as to serviceability.

Section VII

Amusement Machines and Facilities

Definition

Article 56

(1) Amusement arcade facilities shall be machines and other technical devices used for recreation and entertainment, for demonstration of agility and skills, or for cognitive purposes.

(2) Amusement machines may pay out prizes in the form of an extra game at the same price, as well as merchandise awards of insignificant value.

(3) It shall be prohibited to pay prizes in cash or to award prizes in the form of alcohol or tobacco products.

(4) The establishments with playing devices under paragraph 1 shall mandatorily account for the proceeds from the games by means of electronic cash registers with fiscal memory.

Restrictions

Article 57

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) It shall be prohibited to use and install amusement facilities similar to gambling devices and slot-machines in the establishments where games of chance are organized and conducted, as well as to adapt gambling devices and slot-machines for use as amusement facilities.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) It shall be prohibited to install amusement facilities in establishments where games of chance are organized and conducted, except where the said facilities are located on self-contained premises in such establishments.

(3) (New, SG No. 102/2001) Any facilities under Paragraph 1 shall be presumed to be gambling playing devices.

Section VIII

Games at Gambling Casinos

Manners of Organizing the Games

Article 58

Board games of chance using roulette, playing cards, dice and games on gambling slot-machines shall be organized at gambling casinos. The bets and the winnings shall vary from game to game at a single gambling table. Winnings or losses shall depend exclusively or primarily on chance.

Operating Requirements

Article 59

(1) A gambling casino shall be a building or a closed part of a building wherein games of chance played on gambling slot machines and board games of chance shall be organised.

(2) There shall be not fewer than five gambling tables in a casino, of which at least two shall be roulettes, whereas the gambling slot-machines, if any, may not be fewer than ten.

(3) The premises in a gambling casino and the arrangement of the gambling tables and the gambling slot-machines must afford an opportunity for continuous supervision of the staff, the playing devices and the participants in the games.

(4) (Repealed, SG No. 102/2001).

(5) Gambling casinos must satisfy the requirements under Article 4, Paragraph 4.

(6) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 95/2005) It shall be inadmissible to put into operation any roulettes or accessories thereof or other similar playing devices which have not been tested at the Bulgarian Metrology Institute and which have not been registered by the State Commission.

(7) (Amended, SG No. 94/2005) Gambling casinos must satisfy the mandatory requirements under Article 18, Paragraph 1, Item 5 and must be separated by a minimum distance of 300 metres, measured graphically along the median divider of the shortest pedestrian route, from any primary or secondary educational establishment or military barracks, unless located at a hotel which has been awarded three stars or a higher star rating by the Chairman of the State Agency on Tourism.

(8) (New, SG No. 102/2001) The rules, manners, technical methods and requirements for measurement of the separation under Paragraph 3 shall be established by the ordinance under Article 41, Paragraph 4.

Requirements to Attendants

Article 60

(Amended, SG No. 103/1999) Any attendant of a gambling table shall perform the activities thereof on the basis of a contract with the corporation organising the game of chance and must possess the qualifications required for practice of the profession regulated according to the procedure established by Article 18, Paragraph 1.

Restrictions

Article 61

Board games of chance may be organised and conducted solely at gambling casinos satisfying the requirements under this Act.

Section IX

Games with Betting on the Outcome of Sports Competitions
or Uncertain Events

Definition

Article 62

(1) Games with betting on the outcome of sports competitions or uncertain events are games of chance, where the winnings are bound with the guessing of the outcome of sports competitions, horse races and other such, and depend solely on the correct forecasting of such results. The winnings are determined through predetermined betting rates or on the basis of the ratio between the number of winners and the amount of bets with a predetermined share of the winnings.

(2) The provisions of Article 37, Paragraphs 5 and 7 shall apply to the games under Paragraph 1.

Types of Betting

Article 63

Betting on the outcome of sports competitions may be:

1. accidental;

2. periodic: held for a definite number of competitions or for a definite period of time; there winning which have not been distributed in the preceding game may be used in the succeeding game or to a raise funds for the payment of a jackpot.

Section X

Games with Betting on Uncertain Events

Definition

Article 64

(1) Games with betting on uncertain events are games of chance, where winnings depend exclusively on chance, are not bound with any regular recurrence, and not otherwise regulated in this Act.

(2) The rules of the game, the price for entry and the prizes shall be approved by the State Commission and shall be announced by the organisers in advance.

Games with Guessing of Facts and Events

Article 65

(1) Betting games, where winnings are bound to the guessing of facts or events, are games of chance.

(2) The amount of winnings may be proportionate to the amount staked or to the price for entry, as the case may be, or may be determined in another way, including determination by chance. The prizes or the winnings, as the case may be, and the way of their determination respectively must be announced in an appropriate manner.

(3) Games with prizes or winnings played by telephone, organized through the media with the intermediation of the Bulgarian Telecommunications Company EAD, other telecommunications operators and Bulgarian Posts EAD, shall likewise be treated as games under Paragraph 1 and under Article 64.

Distribution of Winnings by Level

Article 66

(1) Winnings may be distributed at several levels, with all winnings at the same level being equal.

(2) At least 50 percent of the value of the bets taken must be distributed in the form of prizes or winnings. The distributable part of the proceeds shall be announced in an appropriate manner.

Rules of the Games

Article 67

The provisions of Article 64, Paragraph 2 shall apply to this Section, mutatis mutandis.

Chapter Four

REQUIREMENTS TO THE ORGANISATION OF GAMES OF CHANCE

Section I

Gambling Casino

Article 68

A gambling casino must satisfy the operating requirements under this Act.

Licensing Requirements

Article 69

(Supplemented, SG No. 103/1999)

Eligibility for the issuance of a licence to organise games of chance in a gambling casino shall be limited to limited liability companies or to joint-stock companies with registered shares, with corporate capital of not less than BGN 500,000 which must be fully paid up at the time of submission of the application, and the company must satisfy the special requirements under this Act.

Restrictions Applicable to Working in a Gambling Casino

Article 70

Any person who is member of a management or supervisory body of a bank, an insurance company, a pension fund, a licensed investment intermediary or an investment company, any civil servant, as well as any person carrying on security business except where being part of the security of the casino, shall be disqualified from working in a gambling casino.

Restrictions Applicable to Playing in a Gambling Casino

Article 71

The majority partners and members of management bodies of the corporation which owns or leases a casino, the employees in the casino, as well as their spouses, lineal relatives and siblings, may not play in any games organized at the casino.

Opening Hours

Article 72

(1) A gambling casino may be open to visitors 24 hours a day.

(2) Visitors to a gambling casino shall be entered into a special log in a standard form approved in conformity with the rules under Article 18, Paragraph 1, Item 4.

Restrictions Applicable to Visitors

Article 73

(1) No admittance to a gambling casino shall be granted to:

1. any persons who have not attained the age of 18 years;
2. any persons wearing uniforms, with the exception of such who attend in line of duty;
3. any persons who carry weapons, with the exception of such who attend in line of duty and whose position requires them to carry weapons;
4. any persons who have breached the internal rules of the gambling casino;
5. any persons who are obviously intoxicated or under the influence of narcotic drugs or other intoxicating substances;
6. any persons who do not carry identity documents.

(2) The persons in charge of the management of a gambling casino may deny access to any person other than the persons covered under Paragraph 1, whose presence in the hall or in the casino jeopardizes the orderly proceedings and disturbs the conduct of the games.

Section II

Gambling Halls

Article 74

(1) A gambling hall shall be a separate premise whereon games of chance are organised and which satisfies the requirements under this Act.

(2) Gambling halls may be used for conduct of bingo and keno numbers lotteries and games played on gambling slot-machines.

Requirements

Article 75

Save in so far as otherwise required, the provisions of Chapter Four, Section I, with the exception of the provisions of

Article 69 and Article 73, Paragraph 2 shall apply to the organisers, the employees thereof and the players.

Chapter Five

OBLIGATIONS OF ORGANISERS OF GAMES OF CHANCE

Change of Business and Fulfilment of Investment Conditions

Article 76

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Within 14 days after occurrence of any change in the circumstances shown in the licence as issued thereto, any organiser of games of chance shall be obligated to notify the State Commission and to request entry of the new circumstances, in so far as this is admissible under this Act. The State Commission shall consider any such request and shall pronounce within 14 days according to the procedure established by Chapter Two. Any refusal to enter the change of circumstances shall be appealable within 14 days after communication according to the procedure established by the Administrative Procedure Code.

(2) The provision of Paragraph 1 shall furthermore apply to any persons under Article 18, Paragraph 1, Item 3.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Any corporation under Article 7, wherein foreign persons hold an interest exceeding 51 percent, shall certify to the State Commission the fulfilment of the investment conditions and the creation of the required and additional number of jobs not later than one year after the issuance of the licence.

(4) (New, SG No. 102/2001) Upon suspension of business, an organizer shall be obligated to give the State Commission a 14 day advance notice of the reasons for, and period of, the suspension. In the event of a contingency, the notice period shall be 24 hours.

Obligations to Pay Winnings

Article 77

(1) Any organiser of games of chance shall be obligated to pay the winnings to the winner within the appointed time limit upon presentation of tokens, coupon stubs, cards and other such documents certifying the winning.

(2) Payment of any winnings in cash shall be admissible up to the amount of BGN 30,000.

(3) Where the amount of the winnings exceeds the amount specified in Paragraph 2, payment shall be effected by bank transfer or according to a procedure approved by the State Commission.

(4) Any organiser of games of chance shall be obligated to issue, when requested to do so, an accounting record certifying the amount of the winnings paid. The second copy of any such record shall remain in the custody of the organiser.

Fees

Article 78

(Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Upon submission of an application to the State Commission, the applicant shall pay the stamp duty determined according to the procedure established by Article 27.

Testing of Slot Machines

Article 79

(Amended, SG No. 102/2001)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 95/2005) The testing of gambling slot-machines and devices, where to provided for by statute, shall be conducted by the Bulgarian Metrology Institute.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 95/2005) Any gambling devices in respect of which a testing certificate has been issued by laboratories of Member States of the European Union, where the said laboratories have been endorsed by the State Commission, shall be presumed approved for operation within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. Any such certificate shall be presented to the State Commission together with a legalized translation into the Bulgarian language of the accompanying documentation and a certificate of registration at the Bulgarian Metrology Institute.

Chapter Six

CONTROL AND REVOCATION OF LICENCES TO ORGANIZE

GAMES OF CHANCE

Control

Article 80

(1) (Amended, SG No. 1/2001, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 31/2003, SG No. 95/2005, SG No. 105/2005) The control as to compliance with the provisions of this Act shall be exercised by the officers of the State Commission. Where necessary, they may be assisted by the authorities of the National Revenue Agency, of the Bulgarian Metrology Institute, of the Ministry of the Interior, of the Financial Intelligence Agency and other state bodies specified by statute.

(2) (Supplemented, SG No. 1/2001, amended, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 105/2005) Any officer who has been entrusted with controlling functions shall be issued with a document whereby the said officer shall identify himself or herself upon the conduct of inspections in which the said officer shall be vested with the same powers as the National Revenue Agency.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Inspections in exercise of control shall be conducted on orders issued by the Chairperson of the State Commission.

Proposals to Revoke and Terminate Licences

Article 81

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Where violations of this Act have been ascertained, the Chairperson of the State Commission may propose to the State Commission to suspend or revoke a licence as issued.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Acting on a request by persons who have been granted a licence under this Act, the Chairperson of the State Commission shall propose to the State Commission to terminate a licence prior to the expiration of the term of validity thereof.

Independent Penalties

Article 82

Any penalties under Chapter Seven shall be imposed notwithstanding a suspension or revocation of a licence.

Suspension of a Licence

Article 83

(1) The State Gambling Commission may suspend a licence to organise games of chance for a period of three months or exceeding this duration but not exceeding twelve months, where the organiser culpably:

1. allows the operation of any gambling slot-machines, gambling tables or other gambling devices, which do not satisfy the mandatory requirements;

2. derelicts the duty to notify under Article 76, Paragraphs 2 and 3;

3. defaults on the payment of winning to a winner;

4. advertises, either personally or through another person, a gambling business organised thereby in the cases where such advertising prohibited by the law;

5. commits any violation of the mandatory requirements, as endorsed by the State Commission, for organisation and conduct of the financial accounting and reporting of games;

6. allows the use of playing devices outside the gambling halls, casinos and halls for organisation of betting on sports competition, which have been licensed under this Act, as well as use of such devices which, after repair, have not been submitted for inspection according to the procedure established by this Act;

7. (supplemented, SG No. 102/2001) allows the keeping in gambling halls and casinos of inoperative playing devices in respect of which no excise duty has been paid;

8. allows the payment of prizes in cash above the maximum amount provided for in this Act or the giving of prizes in the form of alcohol or tobacco products;

9. allows the use and installation of amusement facilities which resemble gambling devices and slot-machines, or the adaptation of gambling devices and slot-machines for use as amusement facilities;

10. allows gambling tables to be attended by persons who are not contracted by the organiser corporation and who do not possess the qualifications required under this Act;

11. admits any person disqualified under this Act to participate in the organisation or conduct of gambling business;

12. grants access to a gambling casino, or admits to participation in a game of chance, any person disqualified under this Act.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) The licence of any manufacturer of playing devices for games of chance and of any service organisation shall be suspended for the period under Paragraph 1 upon violation of the mandatory terms and conditions provided for in the said licence, as well as upon dereliction of the duty to notify the State Commission of any change of the conditions on the basis of which the licence has been issued, within 14 days after occurrence of any such change.

(3) In the cases where any violations under Paragraph 1 have been ascertained, the licence may be suspended unless the said violations are remedied within the time limit prescribed by the State Commission.

(4) Upon lapse of the period of the punitive suspension, the suspended penalty shall be restored to the holder provided that the organiser has eliminated the violation, has paid the fine or pecuniary penalty imposed thereon, and the term of validity of the licence has not expired.

Revocation of a Licence

Article 84

(1) The State Commission may revoke a licence to organise games of chance as issued where the organiser culpably:

1. commits or suffers the commission of a wilful violation of the approved mandatory gambling conditions;

2. allows any violation of the terms and requirements as specified in a statutory instrument or in the licence;

3. allows the operation of playing devices which have not been approved and registered by the State Commission;

4. fails to remedy any ascertained violations within the prescribed time limit;

5. commits a repeated violation under Article 83;

6. has submitted untrue information on the basis of which the licence has been issued;

7. (supplemented, SG No. 102/2001) denies access or cooperation for the conduct of an inspection to any officers entrusted with the control of compliance with this Act according to the procedure established by Article 80, Paragraph 3;

8. uses tickets, coupons or other securities, which have not been issued and certified according to the established

procedure, for the conduct of a game.

(2) The licence of any manufacturer of playing devices and of any service organisation shall be revoked upon any repeated violation under Article 83.

(3) (Supplemented, SG No. 103/1999) Any licence under paragraphs 1 and 2 shall furthermore be revoked where circumstances constituting an impediment to the issuance thereof under this Act occur after the issuance of any such licence, or where one installment under Article 27, Paragraph 3 is not paid, save as where the said circumstances have been duly remedied within the time limits prescribed by the State Commission.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Any person whereof a licence issued under this Act has been revoked shall be obligated to discontinue the business within seven days after the entry of the decision into force and to surrender the licence as issued to the State Commission in exchange for a memorandum issued thereto on the said surrender.

Execution of Decisions

Article 85

(1) (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) Any decisions to suspend or revoke a licence shall be executed by the authorities of the State Commission. In the exercise of their powers under this Article, the said authorities may request assistance from other competent state bodies which shall be obligated to render such assistance.

(2) (Repealed, SG No. 102/2001).

(3) (Repealed, SG No. 102/2001).

Chapter Seven

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY PROVISIONS

Article 86

(1) Any organiser of games of chance, who shall violate Article 76, Paragraphs 1 and 2, will be liable to a fine or a pecuniary penalty of BGN 1,000 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 3,000.

(2) Any violation under Article 76, Paragraph 3 will be punishable by a pecuniary penalty of BGN 10,000 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 30,000.

Article 87

(1) Any office holder, who in this capacity shall accept an application without payment of stamp duty, will be liable to a fine of BGN 400 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 3,000.

(2) Any violation of the provisions of Art. 24 will be punishable by the penalty under Paragraph 1.

(3) Any repeated violation under Paragraphs 1 and 2 will be punishable by a fine equivalent to double the statutory amount.

Article 88

(1) Any person, who shall obstruct the conduct of an initial or periodic inspection of gambling slot-machines and devices by the competent controlling authorities, will be liable to a fine of BGN 5,000 of exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 20,000.

(2) Any legal person or sole trader, which or who shall commit the violation under Paragraph 1, will be liable to a pecuniary penalty to the same amount.

(3) Any repeated violation under Paragraph 1 will be punishable by a fine or a pecuniary penalty, as the case may be, equivalent to double the statutory amount.

Article 89

(1) Any organiser, which shall violate Article 73, Paragraph 1, will be liable to a pecuniary penalty of BGN 5,000 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 20,000.

(2) Any repeated violation under Paragraph 1 will be punishable by a pecuniary penalty equivalent to double the statutory amount.

Article 90

(1) Any violator of Article 77, Paragraph 1, will be liable to a fine if a natural person or to a pecuniary penalty if a legal person or sole trader, equivalent to the greater of double the amount of the unpaid winnings and BGN 1,000.

(2) Any repeated violation under Paragraph 1 will be punishable by a fine or a pecuniary penalty, as the case may be, equivalent to double the statutory amount.

Article 91

(Amended, SG No. 54/2006)

(1) Any person, who violates the general mandatory conditions and rules for playing, the general mandatory conditions for the gambling halls and gambling casinos or the general mandatory technical requirements for the control systems adopted on the grounds of Items 4 and 5 of Article 18 (1), shall be liable to a fine of BGN 500 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 10,000.

(2) Where the violation referred to in Paragraph 1 has been perpetrated by a sole trader or a legal person, that trader or the legal person shall be subject to a pecuniary sanction of BGN 500 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 10,000

Article 91a

(New, SG No. 54/2006)

A pecuniary sanction of BGN 5,000 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 10,000 shall be imposed on the organiser for violation of Article 10 (1) and Article 11 (2).

Article 92

(1) Any person, who shall operate any gambling slot-machines and devices which have not been approved and registered by the State Commission, will be liable to a fine of BGN 10,000 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 20,000.

(2) Any person, who shall operate gambling slot-machines and devices or who shall pursue gambling business in buildings or premises which do not satisfy the requirements under this Act, will be liable to a fine of BGN 5,000 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 30,000.

Article 93

(1) (Previous Article 93, SG No. 102/2001) Any person, which shall manufacture, import, distribute, repair or maintain any playing devices without being licensed to do so, will be liable to a pecuniary penalty of BGN 10,000 of exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 30,000.

(2) (New, SG No. 102/2001) Any person, who or which shall organize and conduct games of chance without being licensed to do so, will be liable to a fine or a pecuniary penalty of BGN 20,000 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 50,000.

(3) (New, SG No. 102/2001) For a repeated commission of the violation under Paragraphs 1 and 2, the penalty shall be equivalent to double the statutory amount.

(4) (New, SG No. 102/2001) The penalties under Paragraphs 1 through 3 shall be imposed notwithstanding the penalties provided for in other laws.

Article 94

(Amended, SG No. 102/2001)

(1) Any office holder, who shall default on the time limits for performance of the duties thereof or who shall commit other violations under this Act, will be liable to a fine of BGN 1,000 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 5,000, unless liable to a severer punishment.

(2) Any person, who shall fail to fulfil the obligation to discontinue the business and to surrender the licence within seven days after entry into force or a decision on suspension or revocation of the said licence, will be liable to the penalty under Paragraph 1.

Article 95

Any organiser, which shall fail to keep a log under Article 72, Paragraph 2, will be liable to a pecuniary penalty of BGN 10,000 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 20,000.

Article 96

Any office holder, who shall fail to provide the necessary information or who shall deny any office holders under Article 80, Paragraph 2 any requested assistance within the competence thereof, will be liable to a fine of BGN 500 or exceeding this amount but not exceeding BGN 5,000.

Article 97

(Supplemented, SG No. 103/1999)

Any playing devices, which are used for unlicensed gambling business or in respect of which the tax due for such use is not paid, as well as any cash resources at hand found (in such devices), shall be confiscated.

Article 98

The violations under this Act shall be ascertained according to the procedure established by the Administrative Infractions and Penalties Act.

Article 99

(Amended, SG No. 102/2001)

The office holders under Article 80, Paragraph 2, shall draw up the written statements ascertaining any violations under this Act, and the penalty decrees shall be issued by the Chairperson of the State Gambling Commission.

Article 100

(Repealed, SG No. 102/2001)

Article 101

(Amended, SG No. 102/2001)

The pecuniary penalties and fines under effective penalty decrees issued by the Chairperson of the State Gambling Commission shall be subject to collection according to the procedure established by the Collection of Government Receivables Act.

Article 102

No proceeding shall be instituted, or a proceeding if pending shall be closed, upon the lapse of five years since the

commission of the violation.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION

§ 1. Within the meaning of this Act:

1. "Bet" shall be any payment of sums of money, either directly or in the form of tokens, cards, coupons, tickets, telephone charge units or others, for participation in games of chance for the purpose of obtaining winnings.
2. "Border areas," within the meaning of Article 41 of this Act, shall be the areas and population centre within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria located within 30 km from the international border.
3. "Insignificant value of the cash prize or the merchandise award" shall be a prize or an item of merchandise to a value not exceeding BGN 5.
4. "Repeated violation" shall be any violation committed after the person has been penalized for the same violation by an effective penalty decree within the term of validity of the licence as issued.
5. "Auxiliary and subsidiary activities" shall be the activities directly related to and servicing the operation of organisers of games of chance, such as maintenance and repair of own playing devices, advertising permitted by this Act and publication of newsletters and other print media, which do not constitute direct advertising of the business, issuance and sale of tickets and other tokens certifying participation in games of chance, and other such.
6. (Amended, SG No. 102/2001) "Importer and distributor" shall be a sole trader or a legal person who or which import and offer for sale playing devices for gambling business.
7. "Tax evasion" shall be the failure to submit a tax return, as well as the failure to include taxable income or revenues in such a return.
8. "Device in-built by manufacturer" shall be a device envisaged in the structural documentation of the manufacturer, which is indispensable for the operation of a gambling slot-machine.
9. (New, SG No. 102/2001) "Multichannel interface" shall be a technical device whereby two or more mutually independent systems of the said device meet, interact, or communicate.
10. (New, SG No. 102/2001) "Register" under Article 8, Paragraph 8, shall be:
 - (a) a register of the licences to organize games of chance as issued, suspended and revoked, an incoming and outgoing register of the incoming and outgoing applications and documents, an alphabetical index of the organisers of games of chance, and a list of the persons whereof the licences have been suspended or revoked;
 - (b) a register of the licences as issued, suspended and revoked to manufacturers of playing devices for games of chance, importers, distributors and service organizations responsible for the maintenance and repair of such devices, an incoming and outgoing register of the incoming and outgoing applications and documents, an alphabetical index and a list of the persons whereof the licences have been suspended or revoked;
 - (c) a register of the type, number and works number or other marking ensuring the identification of gambling slot machines, gambling tables and other playing devices in operation;
 - (d) a register of the mandatory standard forms as endorsed of tickets, coupons, cards and other tokens certifying participation in games of chance.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 2. The Decree on Establishment of a State Lottery with Cash Prizes and Merchandise Awards (promulgated, Transactions of the Presidium of the National Assembly, No. 91 of 1958; amended, State Gazette, No. 110 of 1993, No. 153 of 1998) is hereby repealed.

§ 3. In the Physical Education and Sports Act (promulgated, State Gazette, No. 58 of 1996; No. 53 of 1997 - Constitutional Court Judgment No. 8 of 1997 of the Constitutional Court; amended, No. 124 of 1998), Chapter Eleven, Articles 52 through 56 are hereby repealed.

§ 4. Article 425 of the Penal Code (promulgated, State Gazette, No. 26 of 1968; corrected, No. 29 of 1968; amended and supplemented, No. 92 of 1969, Nos. 26 and 27 of 1973, No. 89 of 1974, No. 95 of 1975, No. 3 of 1977, No. 54 of 1978, No. 89 of 1979, No. 28 of 1982; corrected, No. 31 of 1982; amended and supplemented, No. 44 of 1984, Nos. 41 and 79 of 1985; corrected, No. 80 of 1985; amended and supplemented, No. 89 of 1986; corrected, No. 90 of 1986; amended, Nos. 37, 91 and 99 of 1989, Nos. 10, 31 and 81 of 1990, Nos. 1 and 86 of 1991; corrected, No. 90 of 1991; amended and supplemented, No. 105 of 1991, No. 54 of 1992, No. 10 of 1993, No. 50 of 1995; Constitutional Court Judgment No. 19 of 1995 - No. 97 of 1995; amended and supplemented, No. 102 of 1995, No. 107 of 1996, No. 62 of 1997, No. 85 of 1997; No. 120 of 1997 - Constitutional Court Judgment No. 19 of 1997; amended and supplemented, Nos. 83, 85, 132, 133 and 153 of 1998, No. 7 of 1999) is hereby repealed.

§ 5. In Article 34, Paragraph 2 of the Administrative Infractions and Penalties Act (promulgated, State Gazette, No. 92 of 1969; amended, No. 54 of 1978, No. 28 of 1982, Nos. 28 and 101 of 1983, No. 89 of 1986, No. 24 of 1987, No. 94 of 1990, No. 105 of 1991; amended and supplemented, No. 59 of 1992, No. 102 of 1995, Nos. 12 and 110 of 1996, Nos. 11, 15, 59, 85 and 89 of 1998), after the word "detriment" there shall be inserted "as well as for violation of a statutory instrument regulating gambling business".

§ 6. In Article 2a of the Corporate Income Tax Act (promulgated, State Gazette, No. 115 of 1997; corrected, No.

19 of 1998; amended and supplemented, Nos. 21 and 153 of 1998, No. 12 of 1999), Paragraph 4 shall be amended to read as follows:

"(4) Instead of profits tax and municipal tax, the income accruing from auxiliary activity within the meaning of the Gambling Act shall be liable to a final tax on the value of the said activities, determined by relevant type of games of chance. Any such tax shall be charged and remitted on or before the 7th day of the month next succeeding the month of accrual of any such income."

§ 7. Article 190 of the Labour Code (promulgated, State Gazette, No. 26 of 1986 and No. 27 of 1986; amended and supplemented, No. 6 of 1988, Nos. 21, 30 and 94 of 1990, Nos. 27, 32 and 104 of 1991, Nos. 23, 26, 88 and 100 of 1992, No. 69 of 1995 - Constitutional Court Judgment No. 12 of 1995; amended, No. 87 of 1995, Nos. 2, 12 and 28 of 1996, No. 124 of 1997, No. 22 of 1998, No. 52 of 1998 - Constitutional Court Judgment No. 11 of 1998; amended, Nos. 56, 83, 108 and 133 of 1998) shall be amended and supplemented as follows:

1. a new Item 6 shall be inserted to read as follows:

"6. participation in games of chance through telecommunication facilities of the enterprise, and the costs incurred shall be restored to a full amount;"

2. the existing Item 6 shall be renumbered to become Item 7.

§ 8. Within one month after the entry of this Act into force, the Council of Ministers shall appoint the Chairperson, the members of the State Commission and the Director of the Directorate General. Pending the appointment of the State Commission, its functions shall be performed by the Commission on Gambling.

§ 9. (Amended, SG No. 103/1999) Within six months after the entry of this Act into force, on motion by the State Commission the Council of Ministers shall adopt the acts of subordinate legislation for the application of this Act, including the rules under § 11.

§ 10. (Amended, SG No. 103/1999) Any person, who or which have obtained a licence to organise gambling business prior to the entry of this Act into force, shall be obligated to bring the operation thereof in conformity with the requirements of this Act and to apply for the issuance of a licence by the 31st day of December 1999.

§ 11. (1) There shall be established a Bulgarian Sports Totalizator and a State Lottery with Cash Prizes and Merchandise Awards, enjoying the legal status of state-owned enterprises under Article 62, Paragraph 3 of the Commercial Act, which shall be legal persons with head offices in Sofia.

(2) Pending the adoption of the rules of organisation of the state-owned enterprises under Paragraph 1, the Bulgarian Sports Totalizator and the State Lottery with Cash Prizes and Merchandise Awards shall organise the games according to the hitherto effective procedure, with the relationship between the State Lottery with Cash Prizes and Merchandise Awards and the DSK Bank PLC being regulated on the basis of a contract. The newly established state-owned enterprises under Paragraph 1 shall take over the assets and liabilities of the Bulgarian Sports Totalizator and the State Lottery with Cash Prizes and Merchandise Awards existing prior to the entry of this Act into force.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 53/2000, 75/2002, SG No. 103/2005) The budget of the Ministry of Education and Science and, respectively, the budget of the State Agency for Youth and Sports shall allocate annually an action grant for physical education and sports equivalent to the amount of the tax credited in revenue to the national budget during the last preceding year under Article 2a of the Corporate Income Tax Act by the Bulgarian Sports Totalizator, as well as equivalent to 10 per cent of the said tax credited in revenue to the budget by the remaining organisers of toto and lotto games.

§ 12. The State Gambling Commission and the Minister of Finance shall be entrusted with the implementation of this Act.

This Act was passed by the 38th National Assembly on 21 May 1999 and the Official Seal of the National Assembly has been affixed hereto.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Lev Re-Denomination Act

(SG, No.20/2999, supplemented, No. 65/1999, effective 5.07.1999)

§ 4. (1) (Supplemented - SG, No. 65/1999) Upon entry of this Act into force, all numbers in old Leva (BGL), indicated in the Acts, which entered into force prior to 05 July 1999, shall be replaced by figures in new Leva (BGN), reduced 1000 times. The replacement of numbers in old Leva (BGL) by figures in new Leva (BGN), reduced 1000 times, shall also apply to all Acts, adopted prior to 05 July 1999, which have entered into force or shall enter into force after 05 July 1999.

(2) The state bodies, which have adopted or issued secondary regulatory acts, which entered into force prior to 05 July 1999, which include numbers in Leva, must introduced the amendments thereto, required by this Act, so as to make the amendments operational as of the date of entry into force of this Act.

§ 7. This Act enters into force on 05 July 1999

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Tax Procedure Code

(SG, No.103/1999)

§ 13. (Effective as of 30.11.1999) The following amendments and supplements were introduced to the Gambling Act (SG, No.51/1999)

15. Throughout the Gambling Act the word "directorate" shall be replaced by "General Directorate", the phrase "the directorate" shall be replaced by "the General Directorate", the word "director" shall be replaced by "General Director", the phrase "territorial units" shall be replaced by "territorial directorates" and the phrase "taxation bodies" shall be replaced by "tax administration bodies".

§ 20. (In effect as of 01.01.2000) (1) Any court proceedings on taxation lawsuits, initiated before the court and still pending, shall be reviewed under the hitherto existing procedure.

(2) Any pending lawsuits on the legal grounds of the repealed Article 83(2) of the State Receivables Collection Act shall be reviewed in compliance with Chapter XIIa of the Code of Civil Procedure

(3) Pending the adoption of the rules of organization of the tax administration, the number and territorial scope of the tax directorates shall be prescribed by an order of the Minister of Finance, to be published in the "State Gazette".

§ 21. (Effective as of 01.01.2000) As regards any cases, not regulated under this Code, the provisions of the Tax Procedure Code shall respectively apply.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the
Measures against Money Laundering Act

(SG, No.1/2001)

§ 27. The following amendments and supplements shall be introduced into the Gambling Act (publ. SG, No.51/1999, as amended, No.103/1999, No. 53/2000):

11. Throughout the text of the Act, except for § 8 of the Transitional and Final Provisions, the names "the General Directorate for Control of Gambling" and "the General Directorate" shall be replaced by "Insurance and Gambling Supervision Agency" and the phrase "the general director" shall be replaced by "the director".

§ 28. (1) The Insurance Supervision Directorate and the General Directorate for Control of Gambling shall be replaced by "Insurance and Gambling Supervision Agency".

(2) The assets, liabilities, archives, as well as any other rights and obligations of the directorates under paragraph 1 shall be assumed by the Insurance and Gambling Supervision Agency.

(3) Employment legal relationships with the employees of the directorates under paragraph 1 shall be arranged under the terms and the procedure of Article 123 of the Labour Code.

§ 29. The powers of the Director of the Insurance Supervision Directorate and of the General Director of the General Directorate for Control of Gambling shall be terminated by the entry into effect of the Ruling of the Council of Ministers for appointment of a Director of the Insurance and Gambling Supervision Agency.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Gambling Act

(SG, No.102/2001, effective 01.01.2002)

§ 51. (1) The Insurance and Gambling Supervision Agency is hereby closed down. A State Gambling Commission and an Insurance Supervision Agency are hereby established with the Minister of Finance.

(2) The assets, liabilities, archives, as well as the other rights and obligations of the Insurance and Gambling Supervision Agency shall be taken over by the State Gambling Commission and by the Insurance Supervision Agency according to a procedure established by the Minister of Finance, within one month after the entry of this Act into force.

(3) The employment and civil-service relationships with the employees and civil servants of the Insurance and Gambling Supervision Agency shall be settled by the Minister of Finance or by an office holder thereby designated under the terms and according to the procedure established by Article 328, Paragraph 1, Item 1 of the Labour Code and under Article 106, Paragraph 1, Item 1 of the Civil Servants Act.

§ 52. (1) The powers of the Director of the Insurance and Gambling Supervision Agency shall be terminated by the entry of this Act into force.

(2) Within one month after the entry of this Act into force, the Minister of Finance shall appoint the Chairperson and the members of the State Gambling Commission, as well as the Director of the Insurance Supervision Agency.

§ 53. (1) The State Gambling Commission with the Council of Ministers is hereby closed down. The powers of the Chairperson and the members of the said Commission shall be terminated by the entry of this Act into force.

(2) The archives, the rights and the obligations of the closed down State Gambling Commission with the Council of Ministers shall be taken over by the State Gambling Commission with the Minister of Finance.

§ 54. (1) Any proceedings for the issuance of licences instituted and pending before the closed down State Gambling Commission shall be considered according to the procedure established by this Act.

(2) Any court proceedings instituted and pending shall be considered according to the hitherto effective procedure, save in so far as this Act provides for a more favourable treatment of the persons affected.

(3) Any person, who or which has been granted a licence according to the hitherto effective procedure, shall proceed with the operation thereof until the expiration of the term of validity of the said licence.

§ 57. This Act shall enter into force on the 1st day of January 2002.

Lev Re-denomination Act

Promulgated, State Gazette No. 20/5.03.1999,
amended, SG No. 65/20.07.1999 (effective 5.07.1999).

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 4. (1) (Amended, SG No. 65/1999) Upon the entry of this Act into force, all figures expressed in old lev terms as indicated in the laws which will have entered into force prior to the 5th day of July 1999 shall be replaced by figures expressed in new lev terms, reduced by a factor of 1,000. The replacement of all figures expressed in old lev terms, reduced by a factor of 1,000, shall furthermore apply to all laws passed prior to the 5th day of July 1999 which have entered or will enter into force after the 5th day of July 1999.

(2) The authorities, which have adopted or issued any acts of subordinate legislation which will have entered into force prior to the 5th day of July 1999 and which contain figures expressed in lev terms, shall amend the said acts to bring them in conformity with this Act so that the amendments apply as from the date of entry of this Act into force.

§ 7. This Act shall enter into force on the 5th day of July 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the
Gambling Act

(SG, No.79 of 2005)

§ 6. Throughout the text of this Act the name "State Agency for Standardization and Metrology" shall be replaced by "State Agency for Metrology and Technical Supervision."

.....
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

of the Administrative Procedure Code

(SG, No. 30/2006, effective 12.07.2006)

§ 136. The Gambling Act (Promulgated State Gazette No. 51/1999, amended, SG No. 103/1999, SG No. 53/2000, SG No. 1/2001, SG No. 102/2001, SG No. 110/2001, SG No. 75/2002, SG No. 31/2003, SG No. 70/2004, SG No. 79/2005, SG No. 94/2005, SG No. 95/2005, SG No. 103/2005, SG No. 105/2005) shall be amended as follows:

1. (Effective 1.03.2007) In Article 25 (1), the words "the Sofia City Court" shall be replaced by "the Sofia City Administrative Court".

2. The words "the Administrative Procedure Act" shall be replaced by "the Code of Administrative Procedure".