

Casino (Amendment) Bill 2012
Third Reading approved

5.3. Mr Henderson to move:

That the Casino (Amendment) Bill 2012 be read the third time and be sent to the Council.

The Speaker: Casino (Amendment) Bill, Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson: Gura mie eu, Vainstyr Loayreyder.

As we have heard with the passage of this Bill, online gambling is one of the Manx economy's recent success stories and the Department of Economic Development has identified a significant and important opportunity to capitalise on the excellent foundation which the gambling sector has established here, by allowing the staging of live gaming tournaments. This is an important business opportunity to grow the Island's economy, and a chance to assist in mitigating the negative effects of the VAT reductions in the sharing arrangement we have with the United Kingdom. It could also pave the way for other initiatives.

Live gaming tournaments are competitions in which players come together in a single location and compete against one another to win prizes. They are very high-profile events in the gambling world and usually attract significant comment and coverage from the gaming community. They are typically televised and often make celebrities of the most successful participants.

Vainstyr Loayreyder, again, this Bill has been widely consulted upon. We have had questions from Hon. Members on that, just to assure them on that matter – indeed all Members of Tynwald have been consulted, as a matter of interest, the industry and Government Departments, etc. No adverse comments have come back, and in fact one of the largest members of this particular industry here has made a call for us to try this initiative. We are responding to that in a flexible and manageable manner, as outlined through the clauses stages, Vainstyr Loayreyder.

I would like to thank the staff involved, the Treasury have helped me, with regard to placing this before the House and again, for my persistent, and often insistent questioning on the different clauses. Special thanks must go to Mark Rutherford on the Gambling Supervision Commission for that.

Sir, I beg to move the Third Reading.

The Speaker: Mr Teare.

Mr Teare: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I beg to second and to reserve my remarks, sir.

The Speaker: I put the motion that the Casino (Amendment) Bill 2012 be read for the third time. Those in favour, say aye; against, no. The ayes have it.

A division was called for and electronic voting resulted as follows:

FOR	AGAINST
Mr Quirk	Mr Anderson
Mr Bell	
Mr Singer	
Mr Quayle	
Mr Teare	
Mr Cannan	
Mr Cregeen	
Mr Houghton	
Mr Henderson	
Mrs Beecroft	
Mr Robertshaw	
Mr Shimmin	
Mr Corkish	
Mr Cretney	
Mr Skelly	
Mr Gawne	
The Speaker	

The Speaker: With 17 votes for, 1 vote against, the motion therefore carries.

Hon. Members, that brings us to the end of business before the House today. The House will now stand adjourned till the next sitting, to take place at 10.30 a.m. on 17th April in Tynwald Court. However, I would remind Hon. Members that a group photograph of the Keys is scheduled for 10.15 on that day in this Chamber.