

Series: 2002-2003

Circular Letter: C-22

TO: Superintendents of Schools  
FROM: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education  
DATE: January 13, 2003  
SUBJECT: Repeal of Las Vegas Nights in Schools

On January 7, 2003, the Governor signed Bill No. 7501, *An Act Repealing Las Vegas Night Games*. Included in this bill is a provision that repeals the law allowing public and nonpublic schools, parents, teachers and administrators to sponsor events at which games of chance (Las Vegas Nights) may be played. The repeal became effective January 7, 2003. This means that schools, parents, teachers and administrators may no longer sponsor events at which games of chance are played.

For your information, the law concerning secondary school games of chance that has been repealed is Section 7-186a(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes and is as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, a public or nonpublic secondary school or a group of parents of students attending such a school or of the teachers or administrators of such a school may sponsor an event at which games of chance may be played by such students and by the guests of such students if (1) such students are members (A) of the senior class graduating in the calendar year in which the event at which the games are played is held or (B) of the junior class graduating in the calendar year following the calendar year in which such event is held; (2) such guests are sixteen years of age or older; (3) the event is supervised and the games are operated by parents, teachers or school administrators; (4) the purpose of the event at which such games are played is strictly social and no charge in any form is made to play such game and no wagering is permitted which involves anything of value, provided that (A) the sponsor may charge a nominal admission fee to cover the costs of equipment or refreshments, or both, and (B) the sponsor may provide door prizes; (5) the event is solely for such students, faculty or the families of such students and the guests of such persons, and the sponsor does not advertise or otherwise hold the event open to members of the general public; (6) no more than two such events for such students may be held during any calendar year provided such events shall be held in connection with the senior or junior prom or graduation activities; and (7) no alcoholic beverages of any kind are served at the event. Such school or group of parents, teachers or administrators shall be deemed to be an organization for purposes of sections 7-186b to 7-186h, inclusive, 7-186k, 7-186l and 7-186n to 7-186p, inclusive, and shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 7-186i and 7-186j.

I hope that this is helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Division of Special Revenue at 1-800-338-6331.

TSS:kna