H. R. 707

To restore long-standing United States policy that the Wire Act prohibits all forms of Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DENT, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. FORBES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To restore long-standing United States policy that the Wire Act prohibits all forms of Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Restoration of America’s Wire Act”.

SEC. 2. WIRE ACT CLARIFICATION.

Section 1084 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by striking “bets or wagers or information assisting in the placing of bets or wagers on any sporting event or contest,” and inserting “any bet or wager, or information assisting in the placing of any bet or wager,”;

(B) by striking “result of bets or wagers” and inserting “result of any bet or wager”; and

(C) by striking “placing of bets or wagers” and inserting “placing of any bet or wager”;

and

(2) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) As used in this section—

“(1) the term ‘bet or wager’ does not include any activities set forth in section 5362(1)(E) of title 31;

“(2) the term ‘State’ means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States;

“(3) the term ‘uses a wire communication facility for the transmission in interstate or foreign commerce of any bet or wager’ includes any transmission over the Internet carried interstate or in foreign commerce, incidentally or otherwise; and
“(4) the term ‘wire communication’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).”.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed—

(1) to preempt any State law prohibiting gambling; or

(2) to alter, limit, or extend—

(A) the relationship between the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 (15 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and other Federal laws in effect on the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) the ability of a State licensed lottery retailer to make in-person, computer-generated retail lottery sales under applicable Federal and State laws in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(C) the relationship between Federal laws and State charitable gaming laws in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.