

ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS NEWS RELEASE



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ASSEMBLY PASSES BURZICHELLI/MILAM/ALBANO BILL TO ALLOW CASINO EMPLOYEES TO SERVE ON A.C. COUNCIL

(TRENTON) – The Assembly today passed and sent to the Governor legislation Assemblymen John Burzichelli, Matt Milam and Nelson Albano sponsored to allow casino employees to run for seats on the Atlantic City Council or as mayor of the resort.

“Any fears that could have been voiced about the casino industry seeking to run roughshod over Atlantic City’s government have been allayed by the past 30 years of experiences,” said Burzichelli (D-Gloucester). “It makes no sense to continue a system that blocks residents from seeking to represent their neighbors just because they happen to be a waitress or dealer at a casino.”

The lawmakers noted that more than 8,900 casino employees live in Atlantic City – nearly one-third of Atlantic City’s adult population. They noted that the approximately 33,000 casino employees who live outside of the resort face no impediments from seeking to serve on their respective towns’ governing bodies.

Currently, no elected members of Atlantic City’s governing body may be employed by or represent a casino licensee. The bill (A-3820) would alter that ban to allow individuals to run who are employed at a casino before seeking office. The prohibition against officeholders taking a new casino job while a member of the governing body would remain intact.

“Some of the best ideas for moving Atlantic City forward could come from men and women who, as of right now, are blocked from ever being allowed to seek public office,” said Milam (D-Cumberland/Atlantic/Cape May). “Their voices and energies should be welcome at City Hall, not shunned.”

“Lifting this antiquated prohibition will give final recognition of how the futures of Atlantic City, the casino industry and the men and women who work in the resort are all linked together,” said Albano (D-Cumberland/Atlantic/Cape May).

(MORE)

Governing body members who are employed by a casino, or who have an immediate family member employed by a casino, would be required to consult with the Department of Community Affairs' Local Finance Board to ensure no potential conflicts of interests could arise as a result of their public service.

The bill would also clarify that the ban on casino licensees from contributing to political campaigns would not prohibit a candidate from contributing to his or her own campaign.

The bill – which also is sponsored by Assemblyman Paul Moriarty (D-Gloucester) – passed 68-18. It now heads to the Governor, who may sign it, veto it or modify it in the form of a conditional veto.

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