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General Assembly Approves 1 Year Extension for Games of Skill; Promises to Ban Them Permanently in 2021



Acting this afternoon during the annual reconvened session to consider Governor Northam's actions on legislation passed during the 2020 session, the House passed 77-17 and the Senate passed 32-8 legislation to allow the continued operation of so called grey machines through June 30, 2021. Machines in operation after July 1 will be subject to a \$1,200 per month new tax that will fund Virginia's COVID-19 response efforts. During debate, Delegate David Bulova of Fairfax, who led the effort to ban grey machines, said that he was supportive of the revised bill as he had been assured by the administration that it would be a one year extension only and the governor would not support further extensions. The same discussion was held on the Senate floor later in the day. In recent days Las Vegas gaming interests and their paid sympathizers had been working feverishly to kill the governor's grey machine initiative in order to further their long term strategy of casino games of chance in every c-store and restaurant in Virginia. The efforts to impose the ban in a year's time were apparently part of their back up strategy. Despite today's actions there is no doubt that this contentious issue will be back in 2021. To view the revised bill, [click here](#).