



*The School Board of Broward County, Florida*

# RESOLUTION

No. 05-69

**Resolution amending the 2005 State Legislative Program and urging the Florida Legislature to pass legislation ensuring an adequate tax rate and the maximum benefits to Broward County schools from slot machines at pari-mutuel facilities in Broward County.**

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2004, the Florida voters passed Amendment 4 authorizing Miami-Dade and Broward County Voters to hold a referendum on whether to approve slot machines in pari-mutuel facilities; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2005, the voters of Broward County passed an initiative allowing slot machines in pari-mutuel facilities in Broward County, but on that same date, Miami-Dade voters rejected the same initiative in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, it is now up to the Legislature to enact enabling legislation which will regulate the operation of these slot machines, set the tax rate, and determine how the revenues will be allocated; and

WHEREAS, in other states which have passed laws allowing slot machines at pari-mutuel facilities, the slot revenues are taxed at rates between 36% and 70% or more, and state legislators are debating taxing the revenues at 30-35%; and

WHEREAS, a tax rate of at least 40% would maximize the benefits coming to Broward County from the slot machines; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 4 and the ballot language that voters approved on March 8 states that revenues from the slot machines must supplement public education statewide but this language would allow all the revenues to be used for a statewide education program; and

WHEREAS, the SBBC believes it would be preferable for the revenues to be distributed directly to the school districts, which can prioritize the needs in their counties; and

WHEREAS, it has been suggested that tax revenues should be distributed to the school districts pursuant to the Florida Education Finance Plan (FEFP), but under the FEFP, Broward would receive 10.68% of the revenues, which is not the largest percentage that a school district in this state could receive; and

WHEREAS, it would be inequitable for Broward, as the contributing county, to not receive the highest percentage, thus it is necessary for any enabling legislation to recognize this and provide Broward with more than its share under the FEFP; and

WHEREAS, staff may need to develop additional rationale as the legislation moves through the process.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2005 State Legislative Program should be amended to address the slot machine revenues, and the Legislature should be urged to set a tax rate of no less than 40%, to ensure that the revenues are distributed to the school districts directly pursuant to the FEFP, and to ensure that Broward, as the contributing county, receives additional revenues.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2005.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Arma Kraft, Esq., Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Franklin L. Till, Jr., Superintendent of Schools