



## **Internet Gaming**

### **Introduction**

The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA) was passed in 2006 to prohibit Internet wagering. UIGEA does not prohibit Internet wagering directly. Rather the law bars banks and credit card companies from processing payments for such wagering by prohibiting the use of credit in connection with unlawful Internet wagering, effectively outlawing such gambling.

The law excludes from the definition of unlawful Internet wagering “any activity that is allowed under the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978,” thus protecting racing’s interstate wagering activities by maintaining the status-quo with respect to such activities under the Interstate Horseracing Act.

### **Potential Legislation**

Since its passage, opponents of the ban and supporters of licensed, regulated Internet wagering have been pushing for its amendment or repeal in every Congress. Legalizing Internet poker has been the primary goal, but some seek to legalize all forms of wagering over the Internet. Others seek to outlaw such wagering over the Internet.

Five bills were introduced in the last Congress to legalize and regulate or simply prohibit various forms of Internet wagering. We expect similar legislation will be introduced in this Congress with same similar purposes.

All of these bills had provisions allowing pari-mutuel racing to continue to offer whatever forms of wagering it has been offering on an interstate basis, including simulcasting and Internet wagering, under the Interstate Horseracing Act.

### **AHC Position**

Although no legislation has been introduced at this point, the AHC is closely following the Internet gaming issue in Congress and ensuring that no legislation would adversely affect whatever forms of wagering racing can offer interstate and over the Internet under the IHA.