

Gaming

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quarter of 2014, Kalm said. But the Legislature also can introduce bills that would address some of the charities concerns.

The charity poker boom has grown from \$7.9 million in revenue in 2004 to \$197 million in revenue in 2011, Gaming Control Board officials said. The jump came when the state lottery authorized poker and other casino-type games, such as blackjack and roulette, at charity fundraisers. The growing popularity of Texas Hold 'Em poker games also fueled the increase.

The rules that caused the most consternation among the people who showed up at the hearing were: Limiting a poker

gaming room to 120 days a year; requiring that a charity have five people working at every charity event; limiting poker rooms to one charity event a night; making charities raise \$2,000 a year from fundraising other than gambling before they can be licensed; and requiring that charities hold their gaming events in their own or adjacent counties.

The rules would hurt charities providing everything from dog rescues to food banks to college scholarships.

"We're supplementing programs for communities that the state can't afford to provide anymore," said Archie Canterbury of the Mount Morris Lodge organization.

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