

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2012

CONTACT: Luke Givens
(407) 792-8190

GOVERNOR SCOTT AND FLORIDA'S CABINET SUPPORT BAN ON "INTERNET CAFES"

Tallahassee, Fla. – Representative Scott Plakon (R-Longwood) today commented on the support House Bill 3, Simulated Gambling Prohibition and Community Protection Act, which would ban gambling establishments ("internet cafes"), has received from Governor Scott and Florida's Cabinet Members. The bill passed favorably today by the House Economic Affairs Committee.

"These strip mall casinos are an expansion of gambling and operate because of loopholes in current law," said Representative Plakon. "I appreciate the support of Governor Scott and the entire Florida Cabinet as we continue to work diligently to move this legislation forward."

"These store front casinos are impacting Florida's neighborhoods and families," said Governor Scott. "They are and should be illegal. Representative Plakon's bill closes this loophole and I commend his dedication to shutting down these establishments."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Attorney General Pam Bondi, "Representative Plakon's bill will stop the proliferation of strip mall casinos throughout the communities of our state. This type of gambling has never been authorized by the Legislature, and I support the efforts to close any loopholes that are currently being taken advantage of."

"[Internet cafes] are just another manifestation of the expansion of gaming whose existence runs counter to our state's economic priorities," said Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater. "I applaud [Representative Plakon's] efforts to shut down the proprietors of these thinly veiled gaming institutions and encourage the Legislature to lend their support."

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam stated, "I stand with Representative Plakon in support of his effort to ban internet cafes in Florida. Internet cafes are gambling by another name and need to be outlawed from Florida's communities and shopping centers."

###