

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 316

BY SENATORS JOHNS AND GARY SMITH

RIVERBOAT GAMING. Provides relative to riverboat gaming. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 27:15(B)(8)(b), 44(4) and (14) through (25), 65(B)(15), and 66(B)(1), and to enact R.S. 27:44(26), 46, 65(B)(16), and 67, relative to the Louisiana Riverboat Economic Development and Gaming Control Act; to provide relative to the Louisiana Gaming Control Board; to provide relative to gaming activity locations; to provide relative to economic development plan applications for relocating gaming operations; to provide relative to requirements of a riverboat; to provide relative to designated gaming area; to provide for tournaments; to provide for limitations; to provide for definitions; to provide for rulemaking; to provide for exceptions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 27:15(B)(8)(b), 44(4) and (14) through (25), 65(B)(15), and 66(B)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 27:44(26), 46, 65(B)(16), and 67 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§15. Board's authority; responsibilities

* * *

B. The board shall:

1 * * *

2 (8)(a) * * *

3 (b) Promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative
4 Procedure Act as necessary for the administration and enforcement of R.S. 27:~~44~~**(4)**
5 **and (14), 67, 94, 252, and 394.**

6 * * *

7 §44. Definitions

8 * * *

9 (4) "Designated gaming area" means that portion of a riverboat in which
10 gaming activities may be conducted. Such designated gaming area shall not exceed
11 sixty percent of the total square footage of the passenger access area of the vessel or
12 thirty thousand square feet, whichever is lesser **two thousand three hundred**
13 **sixty-five gaming positions, subject to the rules and regulations of the board.**

14 * * *

15 **(14) "Gaming position" means a gaming device seat or a space at a table**
16 **game. Each gaming device seat shall be counted as one position and each space**
17 **at a table game shall be counted as one position, subject to the rules and**
18 **regulations of the board. The board shall specifically provide by rule for the**
19 **counting of gaming positions for devices and games where seats and spaces are**
20 **not readily countable.**

21 ~~(14)~~**(15)** "License" or "gaming license" means a license or authorization to
22 conduct gaming activities on a riverboat issued pursuant to the provisions of this
23 Chapter.

24 ~~(15)~~**(16)** "Net gaming proceeds" means the total of all cash and property,
25 including checks received by a licensee, whether collected or not, received by the
26 licensee from gaming operations, less the total of all cash paid out as winnings to
27 patrons.

28 ~~(16)~~**(17)** "Non-certificated vessel" means a riverboat vessel which does not
29 hold a Certificate of Inspection issued by the United States Coast Guard. Such

1 vessels may include those that formerly held a Certificate of Inspection issued by the
2 United States Coast Guard and those for which the Coast Guard declines to issue a
3 Certificate of Inspection.

4 ~~(17)~~**(18)** "Passenger" means a natural person who is present on a riverboat but
5 has no part in the vessel's operation.

6 ~~(18)~~**(19)** "Permit" shall have the same meaning as that term defined in R.S.
7 27:3.

8 ~~(19)~~**(20)** "Permittee" shall have the same meaning as that term defined in R.S.
9 27:3.

10 ~~(20)~~**(21)** "Person" shall have the same meaning as that term defined in R.S.
11 27:3.

12 ~~(21)~~**(22)** "Racehorse wagering" means wagers placed on horse racing
13 conducted under the pari-mutuel form of wagering at licensed racing facilities that
14 is accepted by a licensed racehorse wagering operator under the provisions of this
15 Chapter.

16 ~~(22)~~**(23)** "Racehorse wagering operator" means the licensed racing
17 association whose facility is located closest to the licensed berth of the riverboat on
18 which gaming activities are approved.

19 ~~(23)~~**(24)** "Riverboat" means a vessel **or facility** which:

20 (a) Carries a valid Certificate of Inspection issued by the United States Coast
21 Guard with regard to the carriage of passengers on designated rivers or waterways
22 within or contiguous to the boundaries of the state of Louisiana.

23 (b) Carries a valid Certificate of Inspection from the United States Coast
24 Guard for the carriage of a minimum of six hundred passengers and crew.

25 (c) Has a minimum length of one hundred fifty feet.

26 (d) Is of such type and design so as to replicate as nearly as practicable
27 historic Louisiana river borne steamboat passenger vessels of the nineteenth century
28 era. It shall not, however, be a requirement that the vessel be ~~steam-propelled~~;

29 **(i) Steam-propelled** or maintain overnight facilities for its passengers.

(ii) Paddlewheel-driven or have an operable paddlewheel.

(e) ~~Is paddlewheel-driven~~ **Is approved by the board and a portion of its designated gaming area is located within one thousand two hundred feet of a riverboat's licensed berth. Such facilities shall be inspected pursuant to R.S. 27:44.1(D)(1)(b).**

~~(24)~~**(25)** "Slot machine" means any mechanical, electrical, or other device, contrivance, or machine which, upon insertion of a coin, token, or similar object therein or upon payment of any consideration whatsoever, is available to play or operate, the play or operation of which, whether by reason of the skill of the operator or application of the element of chance, or both, may deliver or entitle the person playing or operating the machine to receive cash, premiums, merchandise, tokens, or anything of value, whether the payoff is made automatically from the machine or in any other manner.

~~(25)~~**(26)** "Supervisor" means the person in charge of the division.

* * *

§46. Quarterly reporting of professional services and employment information

A.(1) Each holder of a license as defined in R.S. 27:44(14) shall submit to the board, the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, and the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice the report required by R.S. 27:21.1.

(2) The report shall also indicate if the entity providing a professional service is a Louisiana business, a female-owned business, or a minority-owned business.

B. In addition to the report required by Subsection A, each holder of a license as defined in R.S. 27:44(14) shall submit to the board, the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, and the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice a report of the demographic information of their workforce, including but not limited to race, gender, and Louisiana residency.

C. The report required by this Section shall be submitted to the board and committees on a quarterly basis. The report shall be forwarded to the

1 board and committees by certified mail no later than twenty days after the end
2 of each quarter.

3 D. The report required by the provisions of this Section shall not be
4 required to contain the amount of compensation paid to each business entity or
5 employee.

6 E. The board may impose sanctions on the licensee for failure to submit
7 to the board and committees the reports required by this Section.

8 F. The board shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this
9 Section. All rules shall be adopted pursuant to the provisions of the
10 Administrative Procedure Act and R.S. 27:15(B)(8).

11 * * *

12 §65. Licenses to conduct gaming activities upon riverboats; limitations

13 * * *

14 B.

* * *

15 (15) Licensees may conduct no more than four tournaments per year in
16 which the gaming positions utilized for tournament play are not considered part
17 of the licensee's total number of gaming positions. A tournament conducted
18 pursuant to this Paragraph shall be no more than fourteen days in length.

19 (16) In addition to the above, gaming must be conducted in accordance with
20 all the terms of the license, the requirements set forth in this Chapter, and rules and
21 regulations adopted by the division and the board.

22 §66. Gaming while a riverboat is docked in the parish of the official gaming
23 establishment

24 * * *

25 B. Notwithstanding any provision in this Chapter to the contrary, the
26 provisions of R.S. 27:65(B)(1)(c) and 66 shall apply to not more than one licensed
27 riverboat at any time which must be located on Lake Pontchartrain in the parish of
28 the official gaming establishment as defined in R.S. 27:203 and 205(26) if and only
29 if:

positions and otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law defines "gaming position" as a seat at a gaming device or a space at a table game with each device seat counted as one position and each space at a table game counted as one position, subject to the rules and regulations of the board. Proposed law specifically requires the board to provide by rule for the counting of gaming positions for devices and games where seats are not readily countable.

Present law provides that a riverboat must be paddlewheel driven.

Proposed law deletes present law requirement and provides that a riverboat does not have to have an operable paddlewheel or be paddlewheel-driven.

Proposed law adds a facility that is approved by the board and has a portion of its designated gaming area located within 1,200 feet of a riverboat's licensed berth to the definition of "riverboat". Further provides for the inspection of such facilities.

Proposed law requires quarterly reporting of professional services and employment information to the board, the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, and the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice. Specifics what information is to be contained in the report.

Proposed law provides that licensees may not conduct more than four tournaments per year in which the gaming positions utilized for tournament play are not considered part of the licensee's total number of gaming positions. Further provides that such tournaments cannot be more than fourteen days in length.

Proposed law provides that a licensee may submit an application to the board to move its gaming operations to a facility located within 1,200 feet of the riverboat's licensed berth.

Proposed law provides that such an application must include the licensee's relocation plan, detailed capital improvement and reinvestment plan, and any other information required by the board.

Proposed law provides that the board shall prescribe the form and manner of submission for economic development relocation applications.

Proposed law provides that the gaming operations of a licensee be conducted in accordance with the terms of the license, the requirements of this Title, and rules and regulations adopted by the board.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 27:15(B)(8)(b), 44(4) and (14)-(25), 65(B)(15), and 66(B)(1); adds R.S. 27:44(26), 46, 65(B)(16), and 67)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Clarifies the definition of "riverboat" by providing that the facility must have a portion of the designated gaming area within 1,200 feet of the riverboat's licensed berth.
2. Adds that licensees may conduct no more than four tournaments per year in which the gaming positions used for tournament play are not counted as part of the licensee's total number of gaming positions and that such tournaments

can take place outside the designated gaming area and cannot be more than fourteen days in length.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds a provision requiring quarterly reporting of professional services and employment information.
2. Removes proposed law's provision allowing riverboat licensees to conduct certain tournaments outside the designated gaming area which will not be counted as part of the licensee's total number of gaming positions.
3. Makes technical corrections.