
The original instrument was prepared by Dawn Romero Watson. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

DIGEST

Morrell (SB 575)

Present law provides for the operation of video draw poker devices.

Present law provides for the regulation of video draw poker device operations by the La. Gaming Control Board and the office of state police, gaming division.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes DPS&C, state police gaming division, to issue renewals of licenses for the operation of video draw poker devices at facilities with no more than three video draw poker devices at their licensed establishments.

Proposed law authorizes the issuance of new licenses as well as license renewals of three machine locations.

Present law provides that a person who has an alcoholic beverage permit for on premises consumption of alcohol may be granted a license to operate no more than three video draw poker devices at that premises.

Present law provides suitability requirements for the issuance of video draw poker licenses and qualification criteria for the issuance of permits for the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises of a restaurant or bar.

Proposed law retains the provisions of present law and further provides that if a person has met the qualifications for the granting of a permit to sell alcoholic beverages on the premises of a restaurant or bar, they are not required to meet the suitability requirements for the issuance of a video draw poker license to operate three video draw poker devices.

Present law defines a "video draw poker device" as any unit, mechanism, or device authorized that, upon insertion of cash, is available to play or simulate the play of the game of draw poker or other card games approved by the division, utilizing a cathode ray tube or video display screen and microprocessors in which the player may win games or credits that can be redeemed for cash only.

Proposed law changes present law to provide that games other than card games may be authorized by the La. Gaming Control Board or the division, and excludes line up games, mechanical reel games, and slot machines from the definition of a video draw poker device.

Present law provides for specifications of video draw poker devices.

Proposed law deletes the requirement that meters in video draw poker devices be mechanical meters and removes certain present law specifications for video draw poker devices which have become technologically obsolete and otherwise retains present law regarding device specifications.

Present law provides that no multi-hand games or minimum wager may be authorized with respect to any video draw poker device located in Orleans Parish unless it has been determined by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board that permitting such game or wager in Orleans Parish will not violate the terms or provisions of the land based casino contract, as entered into on October 30, 1998, and amended effective October 19, 1999, March 29, 2001, and March 31, 2001.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the February 14, 2005, and December 16, 2005, amendments to the land based casino contract.

Present law provides that a qualified truck stop shall mean a facility covering at least five developed contiguous acres which sells fuel, lubricating oil, and other vehicular merchandise, such as batteries, tires, or vehicle parts for eighteen-wheeler tractor-trailers, and which meet certain criteria.

Present law, among other criteria, requires that a qualified truck stop provide seating for at least 50 patrons.

Proposed law requires that such seating be centralized.

Present law requires that qualified truck stop facilities have stabilized parking areas as a criteria for licensing as a qualified truck stop.

Present law allows a qualified truck stop to temporarily continue operating video draw poker devices for a reasonable period of time as determined by the La. Gaming Control Board or the gaming division of the office of state police, if, for reason of force majeure, the truck stop facility loses the ability to maintain one or more of the required amenities.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a similar allowance if the qualified truck stop facility loses the ability to maintain one or more of the required criteria by reason of force majeure.

Proposed law provides for the statutory reorganization of the provisions of present law regarding the licensing and operation of video draw poker devices.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 14:90(C), R.S. 27:20(A)(1)(d)(ii) and R.S. 27:401-457; adds R.S. 27:501- 502; repeals R.S. 27:301-326)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Adds to the restrictions provided for the land based casino contract, the 2005 February and December amendments to such contract.
2. Deletes requirement that a truck stop facility must sell lubricating oil and other vehicular merchandise as a qualification for video draw poker devices.
3. Adds requirement to the criteria for a qualified truck stop that the seating for at least 50 patrons must be located in a centralized area.
4. Adds allowance for temporarily continuing operation of video draw poker devices by a qualified truck stop facility when, for reason of force majeure, the facility loses its ability to maintain one or more of the required criteria.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Technical amendments made.
2. Clarifies the meters required by the rules and regulations are mechanical.
3. Clarifies the nonresettable meters housed in a secure compartment are mechanical.
4. Deletes section on progressive jackpots.
5. Adds truck stops sell lubricating oil and other vehicular merchandise such as batteries, tires, or vehicle parts for 18-wheel tractor trailers.
6. Removes provision that once parking areas are approved they not be subject to approval or review by the division.
7. Clarifies the operation of poker devices as video poker devices.
8. Changes video gaming device to draw poker devices.
9. Clarifies a person of good, "moral" character.