SLS 20RS-854 ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS

VIDEO POKER. Temporarily suspends video draw poker device operation fees due to mandatory closure of establishments in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To suspend until sixty day after final adjournment of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana the provisions of R.S. 27:435(A)(5), relative to the payment 3 4 of device operation fees by owners of video draw poker devices. 5 WHEREAS, R.S. 27:435(A)(5) provides for an annual operation fee to be paid by owners of video draw poker devices and provides that such fees shall be levied for each 6 7 video draw poker device placed by the device owner at a licensed establishment; and 8 WHEREAS, operation fees vary depending on the licensed establishment from two 9 hundred and fifty dollars per device for bars and restaurants up to one thousand two hundred 10 fifty dollars per device for a race track; and 11 WHEREAS, video draw poker device owners are allowed to pay the annual operational fees quarterly and quarterly payments are due before the 10th day of the month 12 13 starting a new calendar quarter; and 14 WHEREAS, in response to COVID-19 pandemic in Louisiana, Governor Edward issued Proclamation Number JBE 2020-30, which specifically required, for the health and 15 16 safety of the public, that video poker establishments cease operations completely and that truck stops cease gaming operations completely from Tuesday, March 17, 2020, until 17 18 Monday, April 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, since March 17, 2020, and until video poker establishments are allowed 1 2 to open again to customers and devices can again be operated, there will be no revenue 3 generated by the operation of a video draw poker device; and 4 WHEREAS, operation fees will be due on April 10, 2020, for the second quarter of 2020, at a time when video draw poker devices will not be allowed to operate, and 5 6 depending on the success of measures taken to address the pandemic, the restriction on 7 operation of video draw poker devices may be further extended; and 8 WHEREAS, to help businesses that complied with the executive proclamation 9

financially survive the pandemic for the time period when customers were prohibited from patronizing their licensed establishment and to prevent business owners from paying a fee for the operation of a device that is mandated not allowed to operate, it is necessary to temporarily suspend operation fees on video draw poker devices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby suspends the provisions of R.S. 27:435(A)(5).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this suspension shall become effective upon adoption of this Resolution and shall extend through the sixtieth day after final adjournment of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST 2020 Regular Session

Robert Mills

SCR 33 Original

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<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 27:435(A)(5)) provides for an annual fee on video poker devices, per device, based on the licensed establishment where the device is placed. Provides that:

- (1) For devices located at a licensed establishment that is a restaurant, bar, tavern, cocktail lounge, club, motel or hotel \$250
- (2) For devices located at a licensed establishment that is a race track \$1,250
- (3) For devices located at a licensed establishment that is an off track wagering facility \$1,000
- (4) For devices located at a licensed establishment that is a qualified truck stop facility \$1,000

<u>Present law</u> authorizes the payment of operation fees to be made quarterly, due by the 10th of the first month of each calendar quarter.

SLS 20RS-854 ORIGINAL SCR NO. 33

Suspends <u>present law</u> until 60 days after adjournment of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.