

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 540

2025 Regular Session

Fontenot

GAMBLING/VIDEO POKER: Provides relative to video poker

DIGEST

Present law provides that a person who owns an establishment licensed for on-premise alcohol consumption may apply to make available for play three video draw poker device.

Proposed law increases the number of video draw poker devices permitted at such alcoholic beverage establishments from three to four and provides criteria to qualify for additional video draw poker devices.

Proposed law provides that to qualify for the placement of the fourth video draw poker device, the three video draw poker devices placed at the licensed establishment shall earn a combined gross device revenue of at least \$100,000 for the three consecutive months prior to the licensed device owner requesting a fourth device.

Present law provides that a person who is the owner of more than one establishment permitted for on-premises alcohol consumption in a single building or structure, may make available for play not more than three video draw poker devices at each establishment, not to exceed a total of nine devices per single building or structure.

Proposed law changes to provide that such a person may make available for play not more than four video draw poker devices at each establishment, not to exceed a total of twelve per single building or structure.

Proposed law increases the number of video draw poker devices permitted at truck stops from 50 to 60.

Proposed law increases the number of video draw poker devices permitted at hotels and motels from three to four for individual lounges and from 12 to 13 for the hotel or motel.

Proposed law provides that offtrack wagering facilities shall not be granted a license to operate video draw poker devices within one mile of any property on the National Register of Historic Places, any public playground, any residential property, or a building used primarily as a church, synagogue, public library, or school.

Proposed law provides for the designation of residential districts for the purposes of proposed law.

Proposed law provides relative to franchise fee rates and appropriation for revenue generated by video draw poker devices.

Proposed law provides for dedication of the first \$22M generated by franchise fees, above the amount generated in the 2024 fiscal year, to the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Subfund (hereafter the "subfund"), established pursuant to proposed law. Further dedicates 15% of those revenues generated each fiscal year in excess of \$22M to the subfund.

Proposed law requires revenue generated by proposed law and deposited into the subfund to be appropriated to the La. State Racing Commission within the office of the governor for allocation to various horse racing industry groups as provided in proposed law.

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

(Amends R.S. 27:412(B)(1) and (2), 413(A) and (B), 414(intro. para.), 416(A), (C)(2)(a)-(c) and (3)(b), 437(C)(intro. para.), (3), and (4), and 439(Section heading); Adds R.S. 27:415(C)-(G), 437(C)(5), and 439(C) and (D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Amend R.S. 27:437 to allocate tax revenue to the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Fund.
3. Change the requirements that a restaurant or bar shall meet to add a fourth machine and remove the requirement that the gaming enforcement section remove a machine if the location falls under a certain net device revenue.
4. Add R.S. 27:439.1 to create the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Fund and allocate money to the fund for certain purposes.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove language regarding dedication of one-half of one percent of certain revenues.
2. Restructure language regarding flow of revenues generated by proposed law.
3. Establish a subfund within the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Fund for receipt of certain revenues pursuant to proposed law.
4. Make technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Change criteria to be satisfied prior to a licensed device owner making a request for a fourth device, from net device revenue of \$50,000 from that location in a previous calendar quarter to a combined gross device revenue of \$100,000 for the three consecutive months prior to application for the fourth device.
2. Provide for an increase in additional video draw poker devices from 9 to 12 at each separate establishment for an owner of more than one establishment permitted for alcohol consumption on premises.