LOTTERY COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENTS PERTAINING TO LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY LICENSEES

LOTTERY COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT NO. 03-02. STANDARD ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE LOTTERY COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF SOFTWARE AMENDMENTS TO APPROVED VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINAL BILL ACCEPTORS.


LOTTERY COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT NO. 04-01. APPROVAL OF NON-TESTED VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS AND GAMES FOR SPECIFIC NON-GAMING PURPOSES AND FOR LIMITED PERIODS OF TIME.


UNDER THE LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY ACT, MERE POSSESSION OF A VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE IS PER SE A FELONY UNDER PROVISIONS OF W.VA. CODE §29-22B-1705. IN THE STATUTORY DEFINITION OF A VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE AS FOUND IN W.VA. CODE §29-22B-331, SUBDIVISION (A)(1) SAYS A MACHINE THAT IS "APPROVED AND REGISTERED BY THE COMMISSION" UNDER THE RACETRACK VIDEO LOTTERY ACT AND/OR THE LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY ACT IS NOT A "VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE.”


LOTTERY COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT NO. 05-01. CERTIFICATE-OF-RESERVATION TERMINALS.

FUTURE BID OPENING EVENT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED. AS A RESULT, THIS LOTTERY COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT WILL REDEFINE ONE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.

A RETAILER WHOSE LOCATION HAD A PRIVATE CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE OR A CLASS A BEER LICENSE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2001 COULD REQUEST A CERTIFICATE OF RESERVATION IF HE OR SHE APPLIED FOR A LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILER LICENSE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2001. ONE OF THE OPTIONS OPEN TO A RETAILER WITH A CERTIFICATE OF RESERVATION WAS TO ASSIGN IT TO AN OPERATOR WHO WOULD THEN EXCHANGE THE CERTIFICATE FOR VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINAL PERMITS UP TO THE CERTIFICATE'S NUMBER LIMIT. THIS ACTION WOULD SAVE THE OPERATOR THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN THE ACQUISITION OF PERMITS. A DRAWBACK OCCURS WHEN THE RETAILER WHOSE CERTIFICATES WERE ASSIGNED LOSES ITS LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY LICENSE AND THE UNDERLYING CERTIFICATE IS VOIDED. TO PROVIDE FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR THE OPERATOR WHO HAS PURCHASED VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS USING THE CERTIFICATE-BASED PERMIT, THE STATE LOTTERY COMMISSION HAS HERETOFORER ALLOWED THE CONTINUANCE OF THE PERMIT FOR UP TO 100 DAYS OR UNTIL THE NEXT BID IS OPENED.

TO ELIMINATE THE COMMISSION'S LIMITATION OF 100 DAYS, IN SITUATIONS DESCRIBED IN THIS POLICY STATEMENT, THE OPERATOR WILL RETAIN ITS PERMIT AND VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS OBTAINED BY ASSIGNMENT OF CERTIFICATE UNTIL THE COMMISSION'S NEXT BID OPENING FOR PERMITS. JUNE 21, 2005.

LOTTERY COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT NO. 05-02. NO LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY PROMOTIONS.

§1. – SITUATION.
IT HAS COME TO THE COMMISSION'S ATTENTION THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF LICENSED LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILERS ARE ENGAGING IN PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN A MANNER THAT IN THE OPINION OF THE COMMISSION DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY VIOLATES THE STATUTORY PROHIBITION AGAINST PROMOTIONS BY LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILERS AS PROVIDED BY THE LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY ACT [W.VA. CODE §29-22B-702(13)]. THE COMMISSION NOTES THAT THE TERM "PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES" IS NOT DEFINED WITHIN THE AFORESAID ACT.

§2. – SOLUTION.
IN ORDER TO CURTAIL WHAT THE COMMISSION BELIEVES TO BE IMPROPER PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES, THE STATE LOTTERY COMMISSION HAS INSTRUCTED THE DIRECTOR TO GIVE NOTICE TO ALL LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILERS AND OPERATORS THAT THE FOLLOWING POLICY WILL BE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2005.

A. NO LICENSED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILER SHALL ENGAGE IN PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE OFFERING OF LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY IS REFERRED TO BY NAME OR LOCATION OF A LICENSED VIDEO RETAILER. AS USED IN THIS CONTEXT, THE COMMISSION HAS DETERMINED THAT THE TERMS "PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY" OR "PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES " MEANS ANY MARKETING OR ADVERTISING ACT OR ACTION THAT, BY IDENTIFICATION OF THE NAME OR LOCATION OF A LICENSED LIMITED VIDEO RETAILER, ENCOURAGES VIDEO LOTTERY WAGERING AT SUCH RETAILER OR LICENSED LOCATION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO GIVE-A-WAYS OF MONEY, COUPONS, GIFT CERTIFICATES, MERCHANDISE, TICKETS TO EVENTS, TRIPS OR FREQUENT PLAYER INCENTIVES. NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO MEAN THAT LICENSED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PROVIDING COMPLEMENTARY COFFEE, SOFT DRINKS, SNACKS OR APPETIZERS FOR CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES; PROVIDED, THAT THE PROVISION OF SAID BEVERAGES OR FOOD IS NOT LIMITED TO THE PLAYERS OF LICENSED VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS.

B. NOTHING IN THIS POLICY STATEMENT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO MEAN THAT LIMITEDVIDEO LOTTERY RETAILERS ARE PRECLUDED FROM ADVERTISING OR PROMOTING OTHER LAWFUL ACTIVITIES THAT ARE CO-LOCATED ON THE SAME PREMISES AS VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS. THE RETAILER MAY ENGAGE IN PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT INCLUDE OR REFER TO THOSE LAWFUL ACTIVITIES. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT ADVERTISEMENTS THAT ARE SUGGESTIVE OF THE PRESENCE OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS ARE FORBIDDEN.

C. ANY LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILER THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY SHALL HAVE ITS LICENSE SUSPENDED PURSUANT TO WEST VIRGINIA CODE §29-22B- 702(12) UNTIL IT CHOOSES
TO COMPLY WITH THE POLICY. NON-COMPLYING LICENSEES MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT TO SEPARATE CIVIL PENALTIES, WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED FOR EACH DAY OF VIOLATION OF THE POLICY. SEPTEMBER 28, 2005.

LOTTERY COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT NO. 05-03. FRATERNAL CLUB NAMES.

§1. – SITUATION.
IT HAS COME TO THE COMMISSION’S ATTENTION THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF BARS AND RESTAURANTS ARE OBTAINING CHARTERS FROM NATIONAL FRATERNAL AND VETERANS SOCIETIES AND REQUESTING TO OPERATE MORE THAN FIVE VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS. THE COMMISSION RECOGNIZES THAT SOME OF THOSE HERETOFORE LICENSED LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY FRATERNAL CLUB RETAILERS ARE NOT TRUE FRATERNAL CLUBS EXEMPTED BY THE UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AS PRIVATE CLUBS BUT ARE BUSINESSES OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN COMPETITION WITH OTHER LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILERS WHO ARE LIMITED TO FIVE VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS AS PROVIDED BY THE LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY ACT [W.VA. CODE §29-22B-1105(A)].

§2. – SOLUTION.
IN ORDER TO RESTRICT WHAT COULD BE UNFAIR COMPETITION NOT INTENDED BY THE LEGISLATURE, THE STATE LOTTERY COMMISSION HAS INSTRUCTED THE DIRECTOR TO GIVE NOTICE TO ALL LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILERS NOW QUALIFIED AS FRATERNAL AND VETERANS RETAILERS, AND TO ALL LICENSED OPERATORS, THAT THE FOLLOWING POLICY WILL BE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2005:

1. 1. A LICENSEE THAT HAS PROVIDED A TAX EXEMPTION LETTER UNDER SECTIONS 501(C)(8), (C)(10) OR (C)(19) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO PROVE ITS STATUS AS A FRATERNAL OR VETERANS ORGANIZATION ENTITLED TO OPERATE MORE THAN FIVE VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS SHALL ONLY EXHIBIT OR DISPLAY TO THE PUBLIC ITS FRATERNAL OR VETERANS NAME THAT CORRESPONDS TO THE IRS EXEMPTION LETTER, AND IT SHALL NOT EXHIBIT OR DISPLAY TO THE PUBLIC ANY DOING-BUSINESS-AS NAME OR TRADE NAME WHATSOEVER.

2. 2. ANY LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILER THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY SHALL HAVE ITS LICENSE SUSPENDED – PURSUANT TO W.VA. CODE §29-22B-402(12) – UNTIL ITchooses TO COMPLY WITH THE POLICY. NON-COMPLYING LICENSEES MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT TO SEPARATE CIVIL PENALTIES, WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED FOR EACH DAY OF VIOLATION OF THE POLICY. JULY 27, 2005.

LOTTERY COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT NO. 05-04. TAX STATUS CLEARANCE UPON LICENSE RENEWAL FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE ALREADY QUALIFY AS WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENTS.

§1. – SITUATION.
IT HAS COME TO THE COMMISSION’S ATTENTION THAT ITS LICENSING DIVISION SPENDS AN INordinate AMOUNT OF TIME VERIFYING THAT PERSONS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY QUALIFIED AS FOUR-YEAR RESIDENTS OF WEST VIRGINIA AS PROVIDED BY THE LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY ACT [W.VA. CODE §29-22B-512]. TO QUALIFY INITIALLY AS A FOUR-YEAR RESIDENT OF WEST VIRGINIA, A PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH AN APPLICANT MUST, AMONG OTHER TESTS, HAVE FILED TIMELY HIS OR HER WEST VIRGINIA PERSONAL INCOME TAX RETURN WITH THE STATE TAX DEPARTMENT.

§2. – SOLUTION.
IN ORDER TO “DETERMINE ON A CONTINUING BASIS THE ELIGIBILITY OF LICENSEES TO HOLD A LICENSE …” INCLUDING “THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS IN SECTIONS 22B-503 AND 22B-504 …” THAT A PERSON “… SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE LICENSE
ISSUED FOR THE OPERATOR OR LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILER IS IN EFFECT, ” THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURAL CHANGE WILL BE INITIATED AT ONCE:

1. THE LICENSING DIVISION SHALL HENCEFORTH ACCEPT AN AFFIDAVIT OR VERIFIED STATEMENT FROM PREVIOUSLY QUALIFIED RESIDENTS OF WEST VIRGINIA THAT THEY HAVE FILED THEIR WEST VIRGINIA PERSONAL INCOME TAX RETURNS BY DECEMBER 31 ST OF THE YEAR SPECIFIED BY THE DIVISION AS THE MOST RECENT TAX YEAR BEING REVIEWED. SUCH VERIFICATION MAY BE EITHER ON A GROUP DOCUMENT OR ON INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTS.

2. ANY PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION OF A LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY RETAILER FOUND TO HAVE MADE A FALSE VERIFIED STATEMENT TO THE COMMISSION CONCERNING THE TIMELY FILING OF A WEST VIRGINIA PERSONAL INCOME TAX RETURN WILL IMMEDIATELY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM PARTICIPATION IN LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY, AND THE LICENSEE SHALL HAVE ITS LICENSE SUSPENDED – PURSUANT TO W.VA. CODE §29-22B-402(12) – UNTIL IT CHOOSES TO COMPLY WITH THE SPIRIT OF THIS POLICY. NON-COMPLYING LICENSEES MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT TO SEPARATE CIVIL PENALTIES, WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED FOR EACH DAY OF VIOLATION OF THE POLICY. JULY 15, 2005