

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations
Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency
(DLS Control No. 14-183)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

These regulations clarify and refine requirements for the operations of Four Card Poker.

The regulations present no legal issue of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulations of COMAR Affected

Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency:

Table Games: Four Card Poker Rules: COMAR 36.05.09.02, .06, .07, .10, .11, and .12

Legal Analysis

Background

Four Card Poker is a table game offered at Maryland casinos. The operation of the game is subject to regulation.

Summary of Regulations

The regulations clarify that, if the facility operator offers the optional Six Card Bonus Wager, a separate area is to be designated on the layout for the table submitted to the commission for approval. If the wager is offered, the regulations clarify the rankings of the poker hands eligible for payout, from a royal flush down to a three-of-a-kind. If this type of wager is specified in the rules submission of the facility operator, the regulations clarify how it should be made, including the placement of a value chip on a designated area before the dealer announces that there are no more bets. The procedure for dealing cards from an automated dealing shoe or shuffler during a game of Four Card Poker is provided. The procedure for completing a round of play in a Six Card Bonus Wager situation is clarified. Finally, pay tables for payouts to winning Six Card Bonus Wagers are provided.

Legal Issue

The regulations present no legal issue of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency cites §§ 9-1A-02(b) and 9-1A-04(d) of the State Government Article as authority for the regulations. Section 9-1A-02(b) states that the agency must provide assistance to the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission in the performance of the commission's duties. Section 9-1A-04(d) provides that the commission must adopt regulations, including rules and odds for table games, the types and values of promotional items that may be given away to encourage play of table games, and the method of operation of table games. This authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The regulations implement procedural rules for four card poker games. The agency advises that the regulations have no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget because the regulations are procedural in nature and do not directly affect governmental finances.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The agency advises that the regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Contact Information

Legal Analysis: John J. Joyce – (410) 946/(301) 970-5350

Fiscal Analysis: Heather N. Ruby – (410) 946/(301) 970-5510