

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Emergency/Proposed Regulations
Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency
(DLS Control No. 14-401)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

These emergency/proposed regulations alter the rules governing the game of blackjack to allow a facility operator to offer a player a side wager called a Lucky Lucky Wager.

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: Blackjack Rules: COMAR 36.05.04.02, .06, and .13

Legal Analysis

Background

A Lucky Lucky Wager is a wager that the player's hand, combined with the dealer's up card, will contain the ranks of 6-7-8, 7-7-7, or a three card total of 19, 20, or 21.

Summary of Regulations

The regulations alter the rules governing the game of blackjack to allow for a side wager called a Lucky Lucky Wager. Subsection .06G(12) authorizes a facility operator to offer a Lucky Lucky Wager, and subsection .02B(14) requires a facility operator that offers a Lucky Lucky Wager to include a separate area on the blackjack table designated for the placement of the Lucky Lucky Wager.

Section .02B establishes the requirements for the layout of a blackjack table that must be approved by the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission. Section .06G authorizes a facility operator to offer to a player that places a blackjack wager the option of placing additional wagers if the additional wagers are specified in the rules submitted to the commission. Finally, Regulation .13 establishes the payout tables for wagers placed at a blackjack table, and section E of this regulation establishes three payout tables that a facility operator that offers a Lucky Lucky Wager may select in its rules submission.

Legal Issue

The regulations present no legal issue of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The Maryland 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)(3) requires the commission to regulate the operation of table games. Section 9-1A-04(d)(6) requires the commission to adopt regulations that define the rules, odds, and method of operation of table games. This authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

Reason for Emergency Status

The agency requests emergency status to begin on December 22, 2014, and to expire on June 20, 2015. This period is within the normal time frame approved by the committee. The agency states that the reason for requesting emergency status is to update the regulations of the agency to reflect the addition of the Lucky Lucky side wager to the blackjack game. No other information was offered in support of the request for emergency status.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The regulations implement certain payout and procedural rules for a specified table game. 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.

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

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