

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations
Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency
(DLS Control No. 15-250)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

These regulations make various changes affecting video lottery facility operators related to the reporting of a discrepancy in the inventory of tournament chips, approval and use of radio-frequency identification (RFID) cards, replacement decks of cards, and match play coupons.

The regulations present no legal issues 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: Table Game Equipment: COMAR 36.05.02.01, .06, .15, and .16

Table Game Procedures: COMAR 36.05.03.11, .12

Poker Rules: COMAR 36.05.06.05

Legal Analysis

Summary of Regulations

These regulations make the following changes:

- amend COMAR 36.05.02.01 to define “RFID card” as a card with a radio-frequency identification tag that can determine the value on the face of the card;
- amend COMAR 36.05.02.06 to require a facility operator to send a weekly, rather than immediate, report to the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission of a discrepancy in the inventory of tournament chips;
- amend COMAR 36.05.02.15 to authorize a facility operator to use RFID cards in table games if approved by the commission, establish requirements for a facility operator’s request for commission approval of RFID cards, and make related technical changes;

- amend COMAR 36.05.02.16 to provide instructions on the handling of replacement decks of cards, clarify which operator personnel is responsible for receipt, storage, inspection, and removal of replacement decks of cards, and make related technical changes;
- amend COMAR 36.05.03.11 to remove the requirement that an operator report to the commission the denomination of match play coupons redeemed by players;
- amend COMAR 36.05.03.12 to remove certain requirements for placing wagers with match play coupons; and
- amend COMAR 36.05.06.05 to alter procedures for shuffling and cutting cards in Poker.

Legal Issue

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency cites §§ 9-1A-02 and 9-1A-04 of the State Government Article as legal authority for the regulations. Section 9-1A-02 provides the commission authority to regulate video lottery terminals and requires the agency to assist the commission in carrying out its duties. Section 9-1A-04 requires the commission, among other things, to adopt regulations pertaining to rules of video lottery terminals and table games; the types and values of promotional items that may be given away; the method of operation of video lottery terminals and table games; operator reporting requirements; and procedures for accounting for all money exchanged at each table game.

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 alter certain procedural rules relating to table 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.

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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