

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations
Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency
(DLS Control No. 16-115)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

These regulations create and authorize a promotional play coupon for use in certain table games and make various changes related to the use of those and existing promotional chips. Additionally, the regulations authorize a floorperson, rather than an assistant table games shift manager, to perform certain functions relating to Pai Gow tiles.

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: General: COMAR 36.05.01.02

Table Game Equipment: COMAR 36.05.02.02 and .19

Table Game Procedures: COMAR 36.05.03.11, .12, and .16

Legal Analysis

Summary of Regulations

These regulations make the following changes:

- amend COMAR 36.05.01.02 to define “Direct Bet Coupon” as a wagering instrument with a stated denomination that a patron may use at a certain table game;
- amend COMAR 36.05.02.02 to remove certain restrictions regarding the physical location of promotional chips wagered in certain games and make a related technical change;
- amend COMAR 36.05.02.19 to (1) authorize a floorperson, rather than an assistant table games shift manager, to perform certain functions relating to the receipt, storage, inspection, and removal of Pai Gow tiles and (2) make other technical changes relating to the collection, removal, and inspection of the tiles;

- amend COMAR 36.05.03.11 to apply existing regulations relating to Match Play Coupons to Direct Bet Coupons and make related technical changes;
- amend COMAR 36.05.03.12 to alter the redemption requirements for Match Play Coupons and apply those requirements to Direct Bet Coupons; and
- amend COMAR 36.05.03.16 to add Direct Bet Coupons to the list of schematics of table game equipment required to be submitted to the Commission for approval.

Legal Issues

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 regulation. Section 9-1A-02 broadly 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, among other things, requires the commission to define and limit the areas of operation for video lottery terminals and table games, rules of terminals and table games, odds for video lottery terminals and table games, and the types and values of promotional items that may be given away to encourage play.

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 authorize a “Direct Bet Coupon”, among other various changes relating to promotional play chips and table games. The agency advises that the regulations have no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs that there is no material impact because players will likely substitute using Match Play Coupons for Direct Bet Coupons. Additionally, although table game revenues may decrease from allowing additional types of free table game promotional plays, it is assumed that free promotional plays attract more players resulting in no net decrease in revenues.

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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