



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Gaming Task Force

June 2, 2020

Meeting called to order at: 10:00 a.m.

Task Force Members Present:

- Dan Real, Vice-Chairman,
- Barron Fuller
- Barry Regula
- Michael Legendre
- Stan Guidroz
- Vincent Schwartz
- Wade Duty
- Trudy Smith
- Natalie Thurman
- Christopher Hebert
- Major Chuck McNeal
- Arthur Lawson
- David Sickey
- Rosanne Thompson

- Agenda and Roll Call
 - Vice-Chairman Real called the meeting to order and presented the Gaming Task Force's Certification for Lack of a Quorum. A motion was made by Barry Regula to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020, meeting of the Gaming Task Force. The motion was seconded by Barron Fuller and, there being no objection, the minutes were adopted. Introductions
- Update regarding reopening efforts during Phase Two.
 - Casino Gaming representatives reported consistent patron cooperation along with a continued decline in the use of face mask utilization.
 - Additional clarification from the Governor's Office and the Resilient Louisiana Commission may be needed in the use of partitions and the expected duration of Phase Two.
 - No problems have been reported and they continue to see encouraging turnouts.
 - PPEs and hand sanitizers have become more readily available to obtain and dispense to employees and patrons.
 - Surveillance cameras are being tested with the thermal temperature checks and they are working well.
 - Video Gaming representatives reported strong guest visitation with no challenges to the screening processes from employees or patrons.
 - More patrons are using their own face masks.
 - Charitable Gaming representatives reported that everyone was willing to comply with the screening protocols.
 - Half of the traditional bingo halls will have reopened by the end of this week, all video bingo parlors applied for reopening in Phase One, and only ten out of approximately ninety of the American Legion Halls, VFWs, etc. applied for reopening.
- Vice-Chairman Real recognized the good job that everyone did in the reopening of Phase One.
 - Requests: gaming representatives' commentary in regards to moving into Phase Two with the 50% authorized occupancy and 75% of gaming devices to be in service along with the caveat about the Plexiglas.
 - Casino Gaming representatives commented that they had more questions than information regarding the Plexiglas. They understand the insertion of partitions to facilitate distancing, but readily available, commercial product does not seem to meet the initial guidance's far as height and on towards the seating position. It may not be feasible to craft a prototype to fit that criteria depending on the length of Phase Two; production of the Plexiglas is about four to six weeks.
 - Increasing the occupancy in Phase Two will increase gaming positions which will be good for the industry.

- Video Gaming representatives commented that the increase in occupancy and increase in devices is seen as progress and is received well by the industry.
- Social distancing with the partitions are economic decisions that they will have to make as well.
- Stan Guidroz asked for clarity in regards to restaurants and bars not needing a reopening plan.
- Major McNeal confirmed that a reopening plan would not need to be submitted for restaurants and bars. He commended the gaming representatives and the gaming industry with how smoothly they have entered Phase Two with very few issues.
- Charitable Gaming representatives also stated that they had more questions than answers at this point in Phase Two.
- Stan Guidroz presented and discussed the Video Gaming recommendations. the presentation covered seven issues with accompanying proposals and context/benefits to the state:
 - The segment is restricted by the current definition of video draw poker
 - Proposal: Revise the definition of video draw poker to be more than dealing five cards and drawing five cards. Context/Benefit to the State: By broadening our appeal with more poker content, as an industry we can increase our tax base.
 - Limited number of devices in the marketplace
 - Proposal: Increase the max number of devices allowed at video poker establishments including bars, restaurants and truck stops. Context/Benefit to the State: With the addition of new video draw poker products and a broader customer base, the operators and the state can grow their revenues.
 - In-house progressives
 - Proposal: Allow for property specific progressive jackpots based on the play of a game(s) with a limit of \$10,000.00. Context/Benefit to the State: An increased jackpot based in the play of the game will encourage play, increasing tax revenue received by the state.
 - Player tracking/Free play
 - Proposal: Allow for player tracking and free play credits to be downloaded to devices. Context/Benefit to the State: Player tracking allows an establishment to allocate promotions more efficiently and reward players regularly. Greater rewards received by players inspires additional play and..., additional play creates additional revenue for the state.
 - Sports Betting
 - Proposal: Allow video poker establishments to be included in statewide sports wagering. Context/Benefit to the State: ...It makes perfect sense for the state to maximize its revenue potential by the utilization of over 1,600 outlets throughout the state. This will create a significant competitive advantage for the state due to the substantial increase in safe regulated access for sports betting

patron, which will allow the state to convert illegal wagering activity into taxable legal wagering revenue.

- Due to the loss of revenue during the recovery period, consider tax credits, tax deferrals and/or re-aligning video poker taxes to be in line with other gaming taxes in Louisiana
 - Proposal: Re-align the various video poker tax rates to comparable rates of other types of gaming within the state. Context/Benefit to the State: Any enhancement to the current tax structure will provide additional revenues to a video poker establishments operations, thereby having a simultaneous beneficial effect to the state.
- Business/Operational Matters
 - Proposal:
 - For truck stop locations that have been operating ten or more years under the established guidelines, eliminate the requirements for fuel minimums while keeping fuel as a required offering.
 - Eliminate the requirement for restaurant to operate 12 hours per day. Context/Benefit to the State: Both of these would decrease regulatory oversight by the video gaming division. Eliminating the fuel sales will... reduce the demand on regulator resources. Restaurant hours of operation should be a decision left to the operator based on business levels.
 - In both of these cases, the requirement to offer them remains, but operators are allowed to market the offerings in a way that optimizes profits.
- Additional comments
 - Vice-Chairman Real asked if there was any further discussion.
 - Major McNeal stated that truck stops and casinos will have to submit their plans to the Louisiana State Police regarding what they will do with the 75% gaming devices to promote social distancing, i.e. moving machines. Field lieutenants are going to contact the casinos. Bars and restaurants will receive emails from Louisiana State Police requesting what the plans are for their gaming devices, i.e., disabling the middle gaming device to create social distancing.
 - Major McNeal wants the Division to be able to assist the public with any questions they may have relative to the gaming devices and social distancing in the next phases.
- Acknowledgement and adjournment
 - There being no further business, it was moved by Stan Guidroz to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded by Arthur Lawson and unanimously approved by the Gaming Task Force.