

House File 144 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 144
BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 80)

(As Amended and Passed by the House January 30, 2025)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the licensing and regulation of gambling games,
2 including a moratorium on the issuance of new licenses,
3 and including effective date and retroactive applicability
4 provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 99F.4, subsection 24, Code 2025, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 24. a. To conduct a socioeconomic study on the impact of
4 gambling on Iowans, every eight years beginning in calendar year
5 2013, and issue a report on that study. The commission shall
6 ensure that the results of each study are readily accessible to
7 the public.

8 b. The report on the study must include all of the following:

9 (1) Information on the financial and societal impact of
10 gambling.

11 (2) An analysis of problem gambling and treatment programs.

12 (3) An evaluation of existing excursion gambling boats,
13 gambling structures, and pari-mutuel racetracks located in rural
14 areas or near the state border, if a new license is awarded.

15 (4) A comprehensive assessment of potential gambling market
16 conditions.

17 (5) An evaluation of the effects on the gambling market from
18 competitive gambling locations located within sixty miles of the
19 state.

20 (6) An evaluation of the effects on attracting out-of-state
21 tourists to existing excursion gambling boats, gambling
22 structures, and pari-mutuel racetracks located near the state
23 border.

24 (7) An evaluation of the effects on existing qualified
25 sponsoring organizations and potential reductions in annual
26 distributions made by the sponsoring organization, if a new
27 license is awarded.

28 (8) The percentage ownership of existing gambling boats,
29 gambling structures, and pari-mutuel racetracks by residents of
30 this state versus any applicant.

31 (9) A comprehensive study of new potential adjusted gross
32 receipts after awarding a new license and the level of gambling
33 saturation with a sixty-mile radius of any existing excursion
34 gambling boat, gambling structure, or racetrack enclosure.

35 (10) Criminal statistics near existing excursion gambling

1 boats, gambling structures, or racetrack enclosures, and near
2 any potential locations of an excursion gambling boat, gambling
3 structure, or racetrack enclosure.

4 (11) An analysis of the impact on community services,
5 including public safety expenditures, fire protection,
6 infrastructure improvements, and other capital project
7 expenditures in counties.

8 **Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 99F.5A Limitations on issuance of**
9 **licenses to conduct gambling games.**

10 1. a. Commencing January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030, the
11 total number of licenses issued by the commission to conduct
12 gambling games on an excursion gambling boat, at a gambling
13 structure, or at a pari-mutuel racetrack shall not exceed
14 nineteen subject to the requirements of this subsection.

15 b. Licenses to conduct gambling games shall be restricted
16 to those counties where an excursion gambling boat, gambling
17 structure, or racetrack enclosure was operating and licensed to
18 conduct gambling games on January 1, 2025.

19 c. The commission shall be authorized to take any of the
20 following actions concerning the issuance of licenses to conduct
21 gambling games:

22 (1) A gambling games licensee may move to a new location
23 within the same county and retain the gambling games license.

24 (2) A licensed facility may be sold and a new gambling games
25 license issued for operation in the same county.

26 (3) If a license to conduct gambling games is surrendered,
27 not renewed, or revoked, a new gambling games license may be
28 issued for operation in the same county.

29 2. On or after July 1, 2030, the commission shall not issue
30 a new license until after the commission has issued the required
31 report on the socioeconomic study on the impact of gambling on
32 Iowans due for calendar year 2029 in accordance with section
33 99F.4, subsection 24.

34 3. This section is repealed July 1, 2031.

35 Sec. 3. Section 99F.6, subsection 5, Code 2025, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 5. Before a license is granted, an operator of an excursion
3 gambling boat shall work with the economic development authority
4 to promote tourism throughout Iowa and encourage tourism from
5 other states. Tourism information from local civic and private
6 persons may be submitted for dissemination. The commission shall
7 not issue a new license for a new location that would negatively
8 impact an existing licensee located in a county contiguous to
9 the Iowa border or located in a county that qualifies as a
10 rural county. For purposes of this subsection, "rural county"
11 means a county with a population of less than thirty thousand as
12 determined by the most recent population estimate produced by the
13 United States bureau of the census or the most recent decennial
14 census released by the United States bureau of the census.

15 Sec. 4. Section 99F.6, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
16 following new subsection:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 10. a. The commission shall not issue a new
18 license to conduct gambling games if the commission finds the
19 approval of a new license would cause or do any of the following:

20 (1) Negatively impact the adjusted gross receipts of an
21 existing excursion gambling boat, gambling structure, or
22 racetrack enclosure by more than ten percent.

23 (2) Negatively impact the annual distributions of an existing
24 qualified sponsoring organization.

25 b. If the commission does not issue a new license to conduct
26 gambling games in a county, another application shall not be
27 submitted for that county for eight years from the date of the
28 decision not to issue the license.

29 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
30 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

31 Sec. 6. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. This Act applies
32 retroactively to January 1, 2025.