
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Gaming Regulation (Riverboat and Pari-Mutuel) — Gaming Regulatory Revolving Fund

Purpose

The Gaming Regulation appropriation provides for the regulation of all race meetings, sports wagering and Internet fantasy sports contests, and gambling operations governed by Iowa Code chapters [99D](#), [99E](#), and [99F](#), as well as associated administrative rules. The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission (IRGC) approves regulatory fees at its June meeting each year in order to ensure that the regulatory fees are established at the beginning of the fiscal year. Regulatory costs include the annual IRGC appropriation and the Department of Public Safety's Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) costs for both pari-mutuel wagering and excursion gambling boats. Upon establishment of the regulatory fees, the IRGC releases a memo to the general managers of all gaming entities, informing them of the regulatory fees for the following fiscal year.

Prior to FY 2016, the appropriation associated with Gaming Regulation consisted of two separate budget units. Beginning in FY 2016, these budget units were consolidated into one budget unit. Gaming Regulation funding is determined by the Administration and Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee.

Pari-Mutuel Regulation

The IRGC's racing (pari-mutuel) services include the areas of licensing, compliance, and information services, as well as racing animal welfare. Rules are in place for drug testing horses racing at pari-mutuel racetracks. The IRGC employs qualified veterinarians to oversee the animals. The veterinarians are responsible for performing pre- and postrace examinations of the animals, obtaining specimens for drug testing, and performing stable inspections, among other responsibilities.

Riverboat Regulation

The IRGC is responsible for licensing, compliance, and information services activities related to nonracing (riverboat) services. These responsibilities are detailed below.

- **Licensing:** Gaming facilities; all persons engaged in the administration, control, and conduct of gambling games and sports wagering; and all manufacturers and distributors participating in businesses with gaming facilities are licensed by the IRGC prior to conducting business or working for a facility. Licensure involves completing an application and undergoing a background check.
- **Compliance:** The IRGC ensures compliance with all rules and statutes governing gaming. The IRGC verifies all gaming revenues that are due to the State to ensure that the related government entities are receiving tax revenues authorized by law. The IRGC ensures compliance by licensed facilities with the Iowa laws prohibiting underage gambling and gambling while intoxicated.

More Information

Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission: irgc.iowa.gov
LSA Staff Contact: Molly Kilker (515.725.1286) molly.kilker@legis.iowa.gov

- Information Services: Multiple financial reports are available on the IRGC [website](#), including racing and gaming revenue reports, pari-mutuel handle reports, and annual reports.

Funding

The IRGC receives an appropriation from the Gaming Regulatory Revolving Fund (GRF). Regulatory fees assessed by the IRGC on racetracks, excursion gambling boats, sports wagering, and fantasy sports are deposited into the GRF.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [8](#), [11](#), [99D](#), [99E](#), and [99F](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [491](#)

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