

2024 -- H 7571

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LC004329
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CASINO GAMING

Introduced By: Representatives Costantino, Edwards, Ackerman, Shallcross Smith, and
Cardillo

Date Introduced: February 09, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Dept. of Public Safety)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-61.3-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-61.3 entitled "Casino
2 Gaming" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-61.3-1. Gaming enforcement unit.**

4 (a) The superintendent of the state police shall establish a gaming enforcement unit within
5 the state police.

6 (b) The gaming enforcement unit shall work both independently and in conjunction and
7 cooperation with the division of state lottery and the department of business regulation to ensure
8 the integrity of casino gaming activities in the state.

9 (c) The superintendent of the state police shall assign such supervisory and investigative
10 personnel and other resources to the gaming enforcement unit as may be necessary to fulfill its
11 obligations under this chapter. No person assigned to the casino gaming unit, other than in the
12 performance of his/her official duties, shall place a wager in a facility licensed by the division of
13 state lottery, or place a wager on any server-based gaming system as defined in § 42-61.2-1, within
14 the state.

15 (d) The gaming enforcement unit's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:

16 (1) Conducting due diligence investigations and background investigations with respect to
17 entities and individuals required to be licensed by the division and/or the department of business
18 regulation;

19 (2) Monitoring for and investigating potential criminal activity; and

1 (3) Taking any and all actions necessary to enforce the criminal laws related to casino
2 gaming activities.

3 (e) Any and all individuals and/or entities licensed by the division of state lottery and/or
4 the department of business regulation shall cooperate with the gaming enforcement unit in the
5 performance of its duties.

6 (f) The gaming enforcement unit may independently conduct gaming related investigations
7 and background investigations that require out-of-state travel and other relevant and necessary
8 investigatory needs. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant and/or licensee, as applicable, to
9 reimburse the state police for all travel-related expenses and other relevant and necessary
10 investigatory expenses incurred while conducting gaming-related investigations and background
11 investigations.

12 (g) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the general laws, at any time members of the
13 gaming enforcement unit shall have the power to enter the premises of a gaming facility licensed
14 by the division of state lottery at any time, to the extent permissible under the constitutions of the
15 state of Rhode Island and the United States of America, through its investigators and law
16 enforcement personnel ~~at any time~~ or the premises of any facility owned in whole or in part by such
17 gaming facility, or access any server-based gaming system, as defined in § 42-61.2-1, or associated
18 technology, without notice for the following purposes:

19 (1) To inspect and examine the premises of a gaming facility where casino gaming
20 activities are conducted;

21 (2) To inspect, examine and/or seize any and all tangible property related to casino gaming
22 activities;

23 (3) To inspect, examine, seize and/or audit all computers, books, ledgers, documents,
24 writing, photocopies, correspondence, records, videotapes, including electronically stored records,
25 money receptacles, other containers and their contents, and equipment in or on which the records
26 are stored at a licensed gaming facility, its parking areas and/or adjacent buildings and structures
27 on the premises of the gaming facility, or the premises of any facility owned in whole or in part by
28 such gaming facility;

29 (4) To conduct criminal investigations into violations of the criminal laws or the rules and
30 regulations promulgated thereto;

31 (5) To eject, exclude or authorize the ejection or exclusion of a person from a gaming
32 facility and/or a server-based gaming system as defined in § 42-61.2-1, and its associated
33 technology if the person allegedly violated any criminal law, or when the division of state lottery
34 or the casino gaming unit determines that the person's conduct or reputation is such that his or her

1 presence within the gaming facility [and/or the server-based gaming system, as defined in § 42-](#)
2 [61.2-1, and its associated technology](#), may compromise the honesty and integrity of casino gaming
3 activities or interfere with the orderly conduct of casino gaming activities. Nothing herein shall
4 preclude any other law enforcement or regulatory agency from having similar authority as
5 otherwise permitted by law or regulation; and

6 (6) Take any and all other actions as may be reasonable or appropriate to carry out their
7 duties and responsibilities under this chapter.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CASINO GAMING

- 1 This act would amend the law consistent with the advent of iGaming and new technology.
- 2 It also codifies the payment of investigatory expenses incurred by the State in limited
- 3 circumstances.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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