

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2019 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Introduced**

## **House Bill 2934**

BY DELEGATES BARRETT, HOUSEHOLDER, WESTFALL,  
BATES, GRAVES, FLUHARTY, CRISS, SPONAUGLE,  
WILLIAMS, SKAFF AND STORCH

[Introduced February 8, 2019; Referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.]



1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
2 designated §29-22E-1, §29-22E-2, §29-22E-3, §29-22E-4, §29-22E-5, §29-22E-6, §29-  
3 22E-7, §29-22E-8, §29-22E-9, §29-22E-10, §29-22E-11, §29-22E-12, §29-22E-13, §29-  
4 22E-14, §29-22E-15, §29-22E-16, §29-22E-17, §29-22E-18, §29-22E-19, §29-22E-20,  
5 §29-22E-21, §29-22E-22, §29-22E-23, and §29-22E-24, all relating to permitting  
6 interactive wagering authorized as West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering activities;  
7 providing legislative findings; defining terms; detailing duties and powers of the West  
8 Virginia Lottery Commission; providing rule-making authority and emergency rule-making  
9 authority; requiring commission to levy and collect all fees, surcharges, civil penalties, and  
10 weekly tax on adjusted gross interactive wagering receipts and deposit them into the West  
11 Virginia Lottery Interactive Wagering Fund; limiting interactive wagering to existing  
12 racetrack casinos and the casino in a historic resort hotel; providing for four types of  
13 licenses to be issued related to sports betting; establishing license requirements and  
14 prohibitions; authorizing licensing fees; requiring adoption and posting of house rules;  
15 defining duties of an operator conducting interactive wagering; requiring the posting of  
16 betting limits; authorizing interactive wagering agreements with other governments;  
17 providing powers and duties of commission and operators; limiting certain activities of  
18 employees; authorizing the West Virginia Lottery to levy and collect a privilege tax in the  
19 amount of 10 percent of adjusted gross interactive wagering receipts; requiring reports  
20 and submission of taxes; providing for certain carry over and carry back allowances;  
21 clarifying that tax is in lieu of certain other taxes; providing that certain expenditures related  
22 to interactive wagering are facility modernization improvements eligible for recoupment;  
23 providing that credits are not allowed against the privilege tax; creating the West Virginia  
24 Lottery Interactive Wagering Fund; authorizing the West Virginia Lottery to collect an  
25 administrative allowance from gross interactive wagering receipts; providing for  
26 distribution of moneys deposited in the West Virginia Lottery Interactive Wagering Fund;

27 authorizing certain agreements between the West Virginia Lottery and law enforcement;  
28 imposing civil penalties for certain violations, and exception; prohibiting unauthorized  
29 interactive wagering in this state; establishing crimes related to unauthorized interactive  
30 wagering and imposing criminal penalties; establishing crimes related to authorized  
31 interactive wagering and imposing criminal penalties; preempting provisions from state  
32 and local law; and establishing certain exemptions from federal law.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 22E. WEST VIRGINIA LOTTERY INTERACTIVE WAGERING ACT.**

**§29-22E-1. Short title.**

1 This article shall be known and may be cited as the West Virginia Lottery Interactive  
2 Wagering Act.

**§29-22E-2. State authorization of interactive wagering at licensed racetrack facilities and**  
**historic resort hotel; legislative findings and declarations.**

1 (a) Operation of West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering. — Notwithstanding any  
2 provision of law to the contrary, the operation of interactive wagering and ancillary activities are  
3 only lawful when conducted in accordance with the provisions of this article and rules of the  
4 commission.

5 (b) Legislative findings. —

6 (1) The Legislature finds that the operation of the four racetracks and the historic resort  
7 hotel in this state play a critical role in the economy of this state, and such constitutional lotteries  
8 are rightfully authorized as state enterprises consistent with the rights and powers granted to the  
9 states under the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. The federal government is  
10 a government of limited and enumerated powers, and powers not delegated to the United States  
11 by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the states are reserved for the states and its respective  
12 citizens.

13           (2) The Legislature finds that section 36, article VI of the Constitution of the State of West  
14 Virginia grants the state the exclusive right to lawfully own and operate a lottery in this state.  
15 Authorization of wagering on any constitutional lottery within West Virginia is within the state's  
16 sovereign rights as a state to act in the best interest of its citizens.

17           (3) The Legislature finds that it is in the best interests of the State of West Virginia for the  
18 state to operate a lottery in the form of interactive wagering and that it is the intent of the  
19 Legislature to authorize interactive wagering within the state and through compacts with other  
20 approved jurisdictions.

21           (4) The Legislature finds that illegal interactive wagering channels operating throughout  
22 the United States pose a critical threat to the safety and welfare of the citizens of West Virginia  
23 and that creating civil and criminal penalties to prosecute illegal operators, while transferring this  
24 black market demand into a secure and highly regulated environment, will protect the public and  
25 positively benefit state revenues and the state's economy.

26           (5) The Legislature finds that in order to protect residents of this state who wager on illegal  
27 interactive channels and to capture revenues and create jobs generated from interactive  
28 wagering, it is in the best interests of this state and its citizens to regulate this activity by  
29 authorizing and establishing a secure, responsible, fair, and legal system of interactive wagering  
30 immediately, when the federal ban on interactive wagering is lifted.

31           (6) The Legislature finds that the most effective and efficient manner in which the state  
32 can operate and regulate the forms of lottery authorized by the provisions of this article is to limit  
33 the number of authorized operators to those who are licensed, pursuant to the provisions of §29-  
34 22A-1 et seq. of this code, and to facilities licensed to operate video lottery terminals, pursuant to  
35 the provisions of §29-25-1 et seq. of this code.

36           (7) The Legislature finds that the granting of licenses pursuant to the provisions of this  
37 article, while maintaining all ownership rights and exercising control through strict regulation of all  
38 West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering authorized by the provisions of this article, constitutes

39 an appropriate exercise by the Legislature of the power granted it by the provisions of section 36,  
40 article VI of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia.

41 (8) The Legislature finds that the operation of West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering  
42 at racetracks, licensed pursuant to the provisions of §29-22A-1 et seq. of this code, and at a  
43 historic resort hotel, licensed pursuant to the provisions of §29-25-1 et seq. of this code, serves  
44 to protect, preserve, promote, and enhance the tourism industry of the state as well as the general  
45 fiscal wellbeing of the state and its subdivisions.

**§29-22E-3. Definitions.**

1 For the purposes of this article, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them  
2 in this section:

3 (1) “Adjusted gross interactive wagering receipts” means an operator’s gross interactive  
4 wagering receipts from West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering, less winnings paid to wagers  
5 in such games.

6 (2) “Commission” or “State Lottery Commission” means the West Virginia Lottery  
7 Commission, created by §29-22-1 et seq. of this code.

8 (3) “Director” means the Director of the West Virginia State Lottery Commission, appointed  
9 pursuant to §29-22-6 of this code.

10 (4) “Gaming” or “interactive gaming” means wagering on any authorized interactive game.  
11 Authorized interactive games are computerized or virtual versions of any game of chance or digital  
12 simulation thereof, including, but not limited to, casino themed slot simulations, table games, and  
13 other games approved by the commission.

14 (5) “Gaming facility” means a designated area on the premises of an existing historic resort  
15 hotel, licensed under §29-25-1 et seq. of this code, to operate video lottery and table games or  
16 the facility of an entity authorized to operate racetrack video lottery machines, pursuant to §29-  
17 22A-1 et seq. of this code.

18           (6) “Government” means any governmental unit of a national, state, or local body  
19 exercising governmental functions, other than the United States Government.

20           (7) “Gross interactive wagering receipts” means the total gross receipts received by a  
21 licensed gaming facility from interactive wagering.

22           (8) “Interactive gaming operator” means a licensed gaming facility which has elected  
23 to operate authorized West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering activities or an interactive  
24 gaming system on behalf or in cooperation with an interactive gaming licensee.

25           (9) “Interactive gaming provider” or “management services provider” means an  
26 interactive gaming licensee or an interactive gaming operator with a valid permit acting on behalf  
27 of or in partnership with an interactive gaming licensee.

28           (10) “Interactive wagering account” means a financial record established by a licensed  
29 gaming facility for an individual patron in which the patron may deposit and withdraw funds  
30 for interactive wagering and other authorized purchases, and to which the licensed gaming  
31 facility may credit winnings or other amounts due to that patron or authorized by that patron.

32           (11) “Interactive wagering agreement” means a written agreement between the  
33 commission and one or more other governments whereby persons who are physically located in  
34 a signatory jurisdiction may participate in interactive wagering conducted by one or more  
35 operators licensed by the signatory governments.

36           (12) “Interactive wagering fund” means the special fund in the State Treasury, created in  
37 §29-22E-17 of this code.

38           (13) “License” means any license, applied for or issued by the commission under this  
39 article, including, but not limited to:

40           (A) A license to act as agent of the commission in operating West Virginia Lottery  
41 interactive wagering at a licensed gaming facility (operator license or West Virginia Lottery  
42 interactive wagering license);

43 (B) A license to supply a gaming facility, licensed under this article, to operate interactive  
44 wagering with interactive wagering equipment or services necessary for the operation of  
45 interactive wagering (supplier license); or

46 (C) A license to be employed at a racetrack or gaming facility, licensed under this article,  
47 to operate West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering when the employee works in a designated  
48 gaming area that has interactive wagering or performs duties in furtherance of or associated with  
49 the operation of interactive wagering at the licensed gaming facility (occupational license).

50 (14) "Licensed gaming facility" means a designated area on the premises of an existing  
51 historic resort hotel, pursuant to §29-25-1 et seq. of this code, or the facility of an entity authorized  
52 to operate racetrack video lottery machines, pursuant to §29-22A-1 et seq. of this code, licensed  
53 under this article, to conduct West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering.

54 (15) "Lottery" means the public gaming systems or games regulated, controlled, owned,  
55 and operated by the State Lottery Commission in the manner provided by general law, as provided  
56 in this article, §29-22-1 et seq., §29-22A-1 et seq., §29-22B-1 et seq., §29-22C-1 et seq., §29-  
57 22D-1 et seq., and §29-25-1 et seq. of this code.

58 (16) "National criminal history background check system" means the criminal history  
59 record system maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, based on fingerprint  
60 identification or any other method of positive identification.

61 (17) "Wager" means a sum of money or thing of value risked on an uncertain occurrence.

62 (18) "West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering" or "interactive wagering" or "interactive  
63 gaming" means the placing of wagers remotely and in real time on any authorized interactive  
64 game with any interactive gaming provider, using any communications technology, by means of  
65 any electronic or mobile device or other interface capable of providing a means of input and  
66 output. The term does not include:

67 (A) Pari-mutuel betting on the outcome of horse or dog races, authorized by §19-23-12a  
68 and §19-23-12d of this code;



69 (B) Lottery games of the West Virginia State Lottery, authorized by §29-22-1 et seq. of this  
70 code;

71 (C) Racetrack video lottery, authorized by §29-22A-1 et seq. of this code;

72 (D) Limited video lottery, authorized by §29-22B-1 et seq. of this code;

73 (E) Racetrack table games, authorized by §29-22C-1 et seq. of this code;

74 (F) Video lottery and table games, authorized by §29-25-1 et seq. of this code;

75 (G) Sports wagering, authorized by §29-22D-1 et seq.; and

76 (H) Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS).

77 (19) “West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering license” means authorization granted  
78 under this article by the commission to a gaming facility that is already licensed under §29-22A-1  
79 et seq. or §29-25-1 et seq. of this code, which permits the gaming facility as an agent of the  
80 commission to operate West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering on the grounds where video  
81 lottery is conducted by the licensee or through any other authorized interactive platform developed  
82 by the gaming facility. This term is synonymous with “operator’s license.”

**§29-22E-4. Commission duties and powers.**

1 (a) In addition to the duties set forth elsewhere in this article, §29-22-1 et seq., §29-22A-  
2 1 et seq., §29-22B-1 et seq., §29-22C-1 et seq., §29-22D-1 et seq., and §29-25-1 et seq. of this  
3 code, the commission shall have the authority to regulate interactive wagering and the conduct of  
4 interactive gaming under this article.

5 (b) The commission shall examine the regulations implemented in other states where  
6 interactive wagering is conducted and shall, as far as practicable, adopt a similar regulatory  
7 framework through promulgation of rules.

8 (c) The commission has the authority, pursuant to §29A-1-1, et seq. and §29A-3-1, et seq.  
9 of this code, to promulgate or otherwise enact any legislative, interpretive, and procedural rules  
10 the commission considers necessary for the successful implementation, administration, and

11 enforcement of this article. Rules proposed by the commission before December 1, 2019, may be  
12 promulgated as emergency rules pursuant to §29A-3-15 of this code.

13 (1) Rules promulgated by the commission may include, but are not limited to, those  
14 governing the acceptance of wagers on interactive games; maximum wagers which may be  
15 accepted by an operator from any one patron on any one interactive game; method of  
16 accounting to be used by operators; types of records which shall be kept; use of credit and  
17 checks by patrons; type of system for wagering; protections for patrons placing wagers; and  
18 promotion of social responsibility, responsible gaming, and inclusion of the statement, "If you  
19 or someone you know has a gambling problem and wants help, call 1-800 GAMBLER," in  
20 every designated area approved for interactive wagering and on any mobile application or  
21 other digital platform used to place wagers.

22 (2) The commission shall establish minimum internal control standards (MICS) and  
23 approve minimum internal control standards proposed by licensed operators for administration of  
24 interactive wagering operations, wagering equipment and systems, or other items used to conduct  
25 interactive wagering, as well as maintenance of financial records and other required records.

26 (d) The commission shall determine the eligibility of a person to hold or continue to hold a  
27 license, shall issue all licenses, and shall maintain a record of all licenses issued under this article.  
28 The commission may accept applications, evaluate qualifications of applicants, and undertake  
29 initial review of licenses prior to promulgation of emergency rules upon the effective date of this  
30 article.

31 (e) The commission shall levy and collect all fees, surcharges, civil penalties, and weekly  
32 tax on adjusted gross interactive wagering receipts imposed by this article, and deposit all moneys  
33 into the interactive wagering fund, except as otherwise provided under this article.

34 (f) The commission may sue to enforce any provision of this article or any rule of the  
35 commission by civil action or petition for injunctive relief.

36 (g) The commission may hold hearings, administer oaths, and issue subpoenas or  
37 subpoenas duces tecum: *Provided*, That all hearings shall be conducted pursuant to the  
38 provisions of the State Administrative Procedures Act, §29A-2-1, *et seq.* of this code and the  
39 Lottery Administrative Appeal Procedures, W.Va. CSR §179-2-1, *et seq.*

40 (h) The commission may exercise any other powers necessary to effectuate the provisions  
41 of this article and the rules of the commission.

**§29-22E-5. Licenses required.**

1 (a) No person may engage in any activity in connection with West Virginia Lottery  
2 interactive wagering in this state unless all necessary licenses have been obtained in accordance  
3 with this article and rules of the commission.

4 (b) The commission may not grant a license until it determines that each person who has  
5 control of the applicant meets all qualifications for licensure. The following persons are considered  
6 to have control of an applicant:

7 (1) Each person associated with a corporate applicant, including any corporate holding  
8 company, parent company, or subsidiary company of the applicant who has the ability to control  
9 the activities of the corporate applicant or elect a majority of the board of directors of that  
10 corporation; this does not include any bank or other licensed lending institution which holds a  
11 mortgage or other lien acquired in the ordinary course of business;

12 (2) Each person associated with a noncorporate applicant who directly or indirectly holds  
13 a beneficial or proprietary interest in the applicant's business operation, or who the commission  
14 otherwise determines has the ability to control the applicant; and

15 (3) Key personnel of an applicant, including any executive, employee, or agent, having the  
16 power to exercise significant influence over decisions concerning any part of the applicant's  
17 business operation.

18 (c) *License application requirements.* — All applicants for any license issued under this  
19 article shall submit an application to the commission in the form the commission requires and

20 submit fingerprints for a national criminal records check by the Criminal Identification Bureau of  
21 the West Virginia State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The fingerprints shall be  
22 furnished by all persons required to be named in the application and shall be accompanied by a  
23 signed authorization for the release of information by the Criminal Investigation Bureau and the  
24 Federal Bureau of Investigation. The commission may require additional background checks on  
25 licensees when they apply for annual license renewal, and any applicant convicted of any  
26 disqualifying offense shall not be licensed.

27 (d) Each interactive wagering licensee, licensed supplier, or a licensed management  
28 services provider shall display the license conspicuously in its place of business or have the  
29 license available for inspection by any agent of the commission or any law-enforcement agency.

30 (e) Each holder of an occupational license shall carry the license and have some indicia  
31 of licensure prominently displayed on his or her person when present in a licensed gaming facility  
32 at all times, in accordance with the rules of the commission.

33 (f) Each person licensed under this article shall give the commission written notice within  
34 30 days of any change to any information provided in the licensee's application for a license or  
35 renewal.

36 (g) No commission employee may be an applicant for any license issued under this article  
37 nor may any employee of any such licensee directly or indirectly hold an ownership or a financial  
38 interest in any West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering license.

**§29-22E-6. Operator license; West Virginia interactive wagering operators.**

1 (a) In addition to the casino games permitted pursuant to the provisions of §29-22A-1 et  
2 seq., §29-22C-1 et seq., and §29-25-1 et seq. of this code, a licensed gaming facility may operate  
3 West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering upon the approval of the commission, and the  
4 commission shall have the general responsibility for the implementation of this article and all other  
5 duties specified in §29-22-1 et seq., §29-22A-1 et seq., §29-22C-1 et seq., §29-22D-1 et seq.,  
6 and §29-25-1 et seq. of this code, the provisions of this article, and applicable rules.

7           (b) All interactive wagering authorized by this article shall be West Virginia Lottery games  
8 owned by the State of West Virginia. An operator license granted by the commission pursuant to  
9 this article grants licensees lawful authority to conduct West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering  
10 within the terms and conditions of the license and any rules promulgated under this article.

11           (c) Interactive wagering licenses. — The commission may issue up to five licenses to  
12 operate West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering in accordance with the provisions of this article.  
13 No more than five licenses to operate a gaming facility with West Virginia Lottery interactive  
14 wagering shall be permitted in this state.

15           (d) Grant of license. — Upon application by a gaming facility and payment of a \$250,000  
16 application fee, the commission shall immediately grant a West Virginia Lottery interactive  
17 wagering license to an operator that provides for the right to conduct West Virginia Lottery  
18 interactive wagering: *Provided*, That the applicant must hold a valid racetrack video lottery license  
19 issued by the commission, pursuant to §29-22A-1 *et seq.* of this code, or a valid license to operate  
20 a gaming facility, issued by the commission pursuant to §29-25-1 *et seq.* of this code, and  
21 otherwise meet the requirements for licensure under the provisions of this article and the rules of  
22 the commission. This license shall be issued for a five-year period, and may be renewed for five-  
23 year periods upon payment of a \$100,000 renewal fee, as long as an operator continues to meet  
24 all qualification requirements.

25           (e) Location. — A West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering license authorizes the  
26 operation of West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering at locations and through any mobile  
27 application or other digital platforms approved by the commission.

28           (f) Management service contracts. —

29           (1) Approval. — A West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering licensee may not enter into  
30 any management services contract that would permit any person other than the licensee to act  
31 as the commission's agent in operating West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering unless the

32 management service contract: (A) Is with a person licensed under this article to provide  
33 management services; (B) is in writing; and (C) has been approved by the commission.

34 (2) *Material change.* — The West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering licensee shall  
35 submit any material change in a management services contract, previously approved by the  
36 commission, to the commission for its approval or rejection before the material change may take  
37 effect.

38 (3) *Other commission approvals and licenses.* — The duties and responsibilities of a  
39 management services provider under a management services contract may not be assigned,  
40 delegated, subcontracted, or transferred to a third party without the prior approval of the  
41 commission. Third parties must be licensed as a management services provider under this article  
42 before providing services.

43 (g) *Expiration date and renewal.* —

44 (1) A licensed operator shall submit to the commission such documentation or information  
45 as the commission may require demonstrating to the satisfaction of the director that the licensee  
46 continues to meet the requirements of the law and rules. Required documentation or information  
47 shall be submitted no later than five years after issuance of an operator license and every five  
48 years thereafter, or within lesser periods based on circumstances specified by the commission.

49 (2) If the licensee fails to apply to renew its license issued pursuant to §29-22A-1 *et seq.*  
50 or §29-25-1 *et seq.* of this code prior to expiration, the commission shall renew its license under  
51 this article at the time the expired license is renewed as long as the licensee was operating in  
52 compliance with applicable requirements in the preceding license year.

53 (h) *Surety bond.* — A West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering licensee shall execute a  
54 surety bond in an amount and in the form approved by the commission, to be given to the state,  
55 to guarantee the licensee faithfully makes all payments in accordance with the provisions of this  
56 article and rules promulgated by the commission.

57 (i) Audits. — Upon application for a license and annually thereafter, a West Virginia Lottery  
58 interactive wagering licensee shall submit to the commission an annual audit of the financial  
59 transactions and condition of the licensee’s total operations prepared by a certified public  
60 accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable federal  
61 and state laws.

62 (j) Commission office space. — A West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering licensee shall  
63 provide suitable office space at the interactive wagering facility, at no cost, for the commission to  
64 perform the duties required of it by this article and the rules of the commission.

65 (k) Facility qualifications. — A West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering licensee shall  
66 demonstrate that its gaming facility with West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering will: (1) Be  
67 accessible to disabled individuals, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws; (2) be  
68 licensed in accordance with this article, and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws; and  
69 (3) meet any other qualifications specified in rules adopted by the commission. Notwithstanding  
70 any provision of this code or any rules promulgated by the Alcohol Beverage Control  
71 Commissioner to the contrary, vacation of the premises after service of beverages ceases is not  
72 required for any licensed gaming facility.

**§29-22E-7. Management services providers; license requirements.**

1 (a) License. — The holder of a license to operate West Virginia Lottery interactive  
2 wagering may contract with an entity to conduct that operation in accordance with the rules of the  
3 commission to be an interactive gaming provider. That entity shall obtain a license as a  
4 management services provider prior to the execution of any such contract, and such license shall  
5 be issued pursuant to the provisions of this article and any rules promulgated by the commission.

6 (b) License qualifications and fee. — Each applicant for a management services provider  
7 license shall meet all requirements for licensure and pay a nonrefundable license and application  
8 fee of \$100,000. The commission may adopt rules establishing additional requirements for an  
9 authorized management services provider. The commission may accept licensing by another

10 jurisdiction, that it specifically determines to have similar licensing requirements, as evidence the  
11 applicant meets authorized management services provider licensing requirements.

12 (c) *Renewal.* — Management services provider licenses shall be renewed annually to any  
13 licensee who continues to be in compliance with all requirements and who pays the annual  
14 renewal fee of \$100,000.

15 (d) Any entity or individual who shares in revenue, including any affiliate operating under  
16 a revenue share agreement, shall be licensed under this section.

**§29-22E-8. Suppliers; license requirements.**

1 (a) *Supplier license.* —

2 (1) The commission may issue a supplier license to a person to sell or lease interactive  
3 wagering equipment, systems, or other gaming items necessary to conduct interactive wagering,  
4 and offer services related to such equipment or other gaming items to a West Virginia Lottery  
5 interactive wagering licensee while the license is active. The commission may establish the  
6 conditions under which the commission may issue provisional licenses, pending completion of  
7 final action on an application.

8 (2) The commission may adopt rules establishing additional requirements for a West  
9 Virginia Lottery interactive wagering supplier and any system or other equipment utilized for  
10 wagering. The commission may accept licensing by another jurisdiction, that it specifically  
11 determines to have similar licensing requirements, as evidence the applicant meets West Virginia  
12 Lottery interactive wagering supplier licensing requirements.

13 (b) *Supplier specifications.* — An applicant for a supplier license shall demonstrate that  
14 the equipment, system, or services that the applicant plans to offer to the interactive wagering  
15 licensee conform to standards established by the commission and applicable state law. The  
16 commission may accept approval by another jurisdiction, that it specifically determines have  
17 similar equipment standards, as evidence the applicant meets the standards established by the  
18 commission and applicable state law.



19 (c) License application and renewal fees. — Applicants shall pay to the commission a  
20 nonrefundable license and application fee in the amount of \$10,000. After the initial one-year  
21 term, the commission shall renew supplier licenses annually thereafter. Renewal of a supplier  
22 license will be granted to any renewal applicant who has continued to comply with all applicable  
23 statutory and regulatory requirements, upon submission of the commission issued renewal form  
24 and payment of a \$10,000 renewal fee.

25 (d) Inventory. — A licensed interactive wagering supplier shall submit to the commission  
26 a list of all interactive wagering equipment and services sold, delivered to, or offered to a West  
27 Virginia Lottery interactive wagering licensee in this state, as required by the commission, all of  
28 which must be tested and approved by an independent testing laboratory approved by the  
29 commission. A interactive wagering licensee may continue to use supplies acquired from a  
30 licensed interactive wagering supplier, even if a supplier's license expires or is otherwise  
31 cancelled, unless the commission finds a defect in the supplies.

**§29-22E-9. Occupational licenses.**

1 (a) All persons employed to be engaged directly in interactive wagering-related activities,  
2 or otherwise conducting or operating interactive wagering, shall be licensed by the commission  
3 and maintain a valid occupational license at all times and the commission shall issue such license  
4 to be employed in the operation of interactive wagering to a person who meets the requirements  
5 of this section.

6 (b) An occupational license to be employed by a gaming facility with West Virginia Lottery  
7 interactive wagering permits the licensee to be employed in the capacity designated by the  
8 commission while the license is still active. The commission may establish, by rule, job  
9 classifications with different requirements to recognize the extent to which a particular job has the  
10 ability to impact the proper operation of West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering.

11 (c) Application and fee. — Applicants shall submit any required application forms  
12 established by the commission and pay a nonrefundable application fee of \$100. The fee may be  
13 paid on behalf of an applicant by the employer.

14 (d) Renewal fee and form. — Each licensed employee shall pay to the commission an  
15 annual license fee of \$100 by June 30 of each year. The fee may be paid on behalf of the licensed  
16 employee by the employer. In addition to a renewal fee, each licensed employee shall annually  
17 submit a renewal application on the form required by the commission.

**§29-22E-10. License prohibitions.**

1 (a) The commission may not grant any license, pursuant to the provisions of this article, if  
2 evidence satisfactory to the commission exists that the applicant:

3 (1) Has knowingly made a false statement of a material fact to the commission;

4 (2) Has been suspended from operating a gambling game, gaming device, or gaming  
5 operation, or had a license revoked by any governmental authority responsible for regulation of  
6 gaming activities;

7 (3) Has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude, a gambling-related offense, a theft  
8 or fraud offense, or has otherwise demonstrated, either by a police record or other satisfactory  
9 evidence, a lack of respect for law and order; or

10 (4) Is a company or individual who has been directly employed by any illegal or offshore  
11 book that serviced the United States, or otherwise accepted black market wagers from individuals  
12 located in the United States.

13 (b) The commission may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or  
14 suspend or revoke a license:

15 (1) If the applicant or licensee has not demonstrated to the satisfaction of the commission  
16 financial responsibility sufficient to adequately meet the requirements of the proposed enterprise;

17 (2) If the applicant or licensee is not the true owner of the business or is not the sole owner  
18 and has not disclosed the existence or identity of other persons who have an ownership interest  
19 in the business; or

20 (3) If the applicant or licensee is a corporation which sells more than five percent of a  
21 licensee's voting stock, or more than five percent of the voting stock of a corporation which  
22 controls the licensee, or sells a licensee's assets, other than those bought and sold in the ordinary  
23 course of business, or any interest in the assets, to any person not already determined by the  
24 commission to have met the qualifications of a licensee under this article.

25 (c) In the case of an applicant for a interactive wagering license, the commission may deny  
26 a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license if an applicant  
27 has not met the requirements of this section or any other provision of this article.

**§29-22E-11. Interactive wagering house rules; posting of rules.**

1 (a) Each operator shall adopt comprehensive house rules for game play governing  
2 interactive wagering transactions with its patrons. These comprehensive rules will be published  
3 as part of the minimum internal control standards. The rules shall specify the amounts to be paid  
4 on winning wagers and the effect of schedule changes. House rules shall be approved by the  
5 commission prior to implementation.

6 (b) The house rules, together with any other information the commission deems  
7 appropriate, shall be conspicuously displayed and included in the terms and conditions of the  
8 interactive wagering system. Copies shall be made readily available to patrons.

9 (c) The commission shall license and require the display of West Virginia Lottery game  
10 logos on interactive wagering platforms and any locations the commission considers appropriate.

**§29-22E-12. Operator duties; interactive wagering operations at a licensed gaming facility.**

1 (a) General. — All operators licensed under this article to conduct West Virginia Lottery  
2 interactive wagering shall:

3 (1) Employ a interactive gaming system and interactive gaming platform which manages,  
4 conducts, and records interactive games and the wagers associated with interactive games, as  
5 well as any interactive gaming skins authorized by the commission. System requirements and  
6 specifications shall be developed according to industry standards and implemented by the  
7 commission as part of the minimum internal control standards;

8 (2) Promptly report to the commission any facts or circumstances related to the operation  
9 of a West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering licensee which constitute a violation of state or  
10 federal law and immediately report any suspicious betting over a threshold set by the operator  
11 that has been approved by the commission to the appropriate state or federal authorities;

12 (3) Conduct all interactive wagering activities and functions in a manner which does not  
13 pose a threat to the public health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of this state and does not  
14 adversely affect the security or integrity of the West Virginia Lottery;

15 (4) Hold the commission and this state harmless from and defend and pay for the defense  
16 of any and all claims which may be asserted against a licensee, the commission, the state, or  
17 employees thereof, arising from the licensee's actions or omission while acting as an agent of the  
18 commission operating West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering pursuant to this article;

19 (5) Assist the commission in maximizing interactive wagering revenues; and

20 (6) Keep current in all payments and obligations to the commission.

21 (b) Duties. — All West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering licensees shall:

22 (1) Acquire West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering gaming equipment by purchase,  
23 lease, or other assignment and provide a secure location for the placement, operation, and play  
24 of interactive wagering gaming equipment;

25 (2) Prevent any person from tampering with or interfering with the operation of any West  
26 Virginia Lottery interactive wagering;

27 (3) Ensure that West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering conducted at a gaming facility  
28 is within the sight and control of designated employees of the licensee and such wagering at the

29 facility or otherwise available by the licensee is conducted under continuous observation by  
30 security equipment in conformity with specifications and requirements of the commission;

31 (4) Ensure that West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering occurs only in the specific  
32 locations within designated gaming areas approved by the commission or using a commission  
33 approved mobile application or other digital platform that utilizes communications technology to  
34 accept wagers originating within this state, or on a interactive wagering device. West Virginia  
35 Lottery interactive wagering shall only be relocated or offered in additional authorized manners in  
36 accordance with the rules of the commission;

37 (5) Maintain sufficient cash and other supplies to conduct interactive wagering at all times;  
38 and

39 (6) Maintain daily records showing the gross interactive wagering receipts and adjusted  
40 gross interactive wagering receipts of the licensee from West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering  
41 and shall timely file with the commission any additional reports required by rule or by other  
42 provisions of this code.

**§29-22E-13. Posting of betting limits.**

1 A interactive wagering licensee shall conspicuously post a sign at each West Virginia  
2 Lottery interactive wagering location and on all interactive gaming platforms indicating the  
3 minimum and maximum wagers permitted at that location and shall comply with the same.

**§29-22E-14. Interactive wagering agreements with other governments.**

1 (a) On behalf of the State of West Virginia, the commission is authorized to:

2 (1) Enter into interactive wagering agreements with other governments whereby persons  
3 who are physically located in a signatory jurisdiction may participate in interactive wagering  
4 conducted by one or more operators licensed by the signatory governments; and

5 (2) Take all necessary actions to ensure that any interactive wagering agreement entered  
6 into, pursuant to this section, becomes effective.

7           (b) The rules adopted by the commission pursuant to this section may include provisions  
8 prescribing:

9           (1) The form, length, and terms of an agreement entered into by the commission and  
10 another government, including, but not limited to, provisions relating to how: Taxes are to be  
11 treated by this state and another government; revenues are to be shared and distributed; and  
12 disputes with patrons are to be resolved;

13           (2) The information to be furnished to the commission by a government that proposes to  
14 enter into an agreement with this state pursuant to this section;

15           (3) The information to be furnished to the commission to enable the commission and  
16 director to carry out the purposes of this section;

17           (4) The manner and procedure for hearings conducted by the commission pursuant to this  
18 section, including any special rules or notices; and

19           (5) The information required to be furnished to the commission to support any  
20 recommendations made to the commission, pursuant to this section.

21           (c) The commission may not enter into any interactive wagering agreement, pursuant to  
22 this section, unless the agreement includes provisions that:

23           (1) Account for the sharing of revenues by this state and another government;

24           (2) Permit the effective regulation of interactive wagering by this state, including provisions  
25 relating to licensing of persons, technical standards, resolution of disputes by patrons,  
26 requirements for bankrolls, enforcement, accounting, and maintenance of records;

27           (3) Require each government that is a signatory to the agreement to prohibit operators of  
28 interactive wagering, management or other service providers, or suppliers, manufacturers or  
29 distributors of interactive wagering systems from engaging in any activity permitted by the  
30 interactive wagering agreement unless they are licensed in this state or in a signatory jurisdiction  
31 with similar requirements approved by the commission;

32 (4) No variation from the requirements of the interactive wagering agreement is permitted  
33 for any signatory government without a lack of opposition by this state and all signatory  
34 governments;

35 (5) Prohibit any subordinate or side agreements among any subset of governments that  
36 are signatories to the agreement unless it relates exclusively to the sharing of revenues; and

37 (6) Require the government to establish and maintain regulatory requirements governing  
38 interactive wagering that are consistent with the requirements of this state in all material respects  
39 if the interactive wagering agreement allows persons physically located in this state to participate  
40 in interactive wagering conducted by another government or an operator licensed by another  
41 government.

**§29-22E-15. Authorization of interactive wagering in this state; requirements.**

1 (a) An operator shall accept wagers on interactive games authorized under this article  
2 from persons physically present in a licensed gaming facility where authorized interactive  
3 wagering occurs, or from persons not physically present who wager by means of electronic  
4 devices. A person placing a wager shall be at least 21 years of age.

5 (b) An operator may accept wagers from an individual physically located within this state  
6 using a mobile or other digital platform or a interactive wagering device, approved by the  
7 commission, through the patron's interactive wagering account.

8 (c) An operator may accept wagers from an individual physically located in a state or  
9 jurisdiction with which the commission has entered into a interactive wagering agreement using  
10 a mobile or other digital platform or a interactive wagering device through the patron's interactive  
11 wagering account, so long as the device or platform is approved by the commission and all other  
12 requirements of the agreement are satisfied.

13 (d) The commission or operator may ban any person from entering a gaming area of a  
14 gaming facility conducting interactive wagering or the grounds of a gaming facility licensed under  
15 this article or from participating in the play or operation of any West Virginia Lottery interactive

16 wagering. A log of all excluded players shall be kept by the commission and each licensee, and  
17 no player on the commission's exclusion list or the licensed operator's exclusion list shall wager  
18 on any West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering under this article.

19 (e) The commission shall promulgate rules implementing the provisions of §29-22E-15(a)  
20 of this code by interpretive rule and minimum internal control standards.

21 (f) The commission shall conduct all interactive wagering pursuant to the provisions of this  
22 article, and such gaming activities shall be deemed to occur at the licensed gaming facilities  
23 authorized to conduct interactive wagering.

24 (g) No licensed gaming facility employee may place a wager on any interactive wagering  
25 at the employer's facility or through any other mobile application or digital platform of their  
26 employer.

27 (h) No commission employee may knowingly wager or be paid any prize from any wager  
28 placed at any licensed gaming facility with West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering within this  
29 state or at any facility outside this jurisdiction that is directly or indirectly owned or operated by a  
30 interactive wagering licensee.

**§29-22E-16. Interactive wagering revenues; accounting for the state's share of revenue**  
**imposed for the privilege of offering West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering;**  
**limitation of other taxes; recoupment for improvements.**

1 (a) *Imposition and rate of assessment.* — For the privilege of holding a license to operate  
2 interactive wagering under this article, the state shall impose and collect ten percent of the  
3 licensee's adjusted gross interactive wagering receipts from the operation of West Virginia Lottery  
4 interactive wagering (hereinafter "privilege tax" or "tax"). The accrual method of accounting shall  
5 be used for purposes of calculating the amount of the tax owed by the licensee.

6 (b) *Operator revenue reports and payment of privilege tax.* —

7 (1) The tax levied and collected pursuant to §29-22E-16(a) of this code is due and payable  
8 to the commission in weekly installments on or before the Wednesday following the calendar



9 week in which the adjusted gross interactive wagering receipts were received and the tax  
10 obligation was accrued.

11 (2) The licensed operator shall complete and submit the return for the preceding week by  
12 electronic communication to the commission, on or before Wednesday of each week, in the form  
13 prescribed by the commission that provides:

14 (A) The total gross interactive wagering receipts and adjusted gross interactive wagering  
15 receipts from operation of West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering during that week;

16 (B) The tax amount for which the interactive wagering licensee is liable; and

17 (C) Any additional information necessary in the computation and collection of the tax on  
18 adjusted gross interactive wagering receipts required by the commission.

19 (3) The tax amount shown to be due shall be remitted by electronic funds transfer  
20 simultaneously with the filing of the return. All moneys received by the commission pursuant to  
21 this section shall be deposited in the interactive wagering fund in accordance with the provisions  
22 of this article.

23 (c) *Privilege tax obligation imposed by this section is in lieu of other taxes.* — With the  
24 exception of the ad valorem property tax collected under chapter eleven-a of this code, the  
25 privilege tax on adjusted gross interactive wagering receipts imposed by this section is in lieu of  
26 all other state and local taxes and fees imposed on the operation of, or the proceeds from  
27 operation of West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering, except as otherwise provided in this  
28 section. The consumers sales and services tax imposed pursuant to §11-15-1 *et seq.* of this code,  
29 the use tax imposed by §11-15A-1 *et seq.* of this code and any similar local tax imposed at the  
30 municipal or county level, shall not apply to the licensee's gross receipts from any West Virginia  
31 Lottery interactive wagering or to the licensee's purchase of interactive wagering equipment,  
32 supplies, or services directly used in operation of the interactive wagering authorized by this  
33 article.

34 (d) Acquisition of any system or wagering equipment and other items related to the  
35 operation of West Virginia interactive wagering shall be considered “facility modernization  
36 improvements” eligible for recoupment as defined in §29-22A-10(b)(2) and §29-25-22(c) of this  
37 code.

38 (e) Prohibition on credits. — Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the  
39 contrary, no credit may be allowed against the privilege tax obligation imposed by this section or  
40 against any other tax imposed by any other provision of this code for any investment in gaming  
41 equipment or for any investment in or improvement to real property that is used in the operation  
42 of West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering.

**§29-22E-17. West Virginia Lottery Interactive wagering Fund; distribution of funds.**

1 (a) The special fund in the State Treasury known as the West Virginia Lottery Interactive  
2 Wagering Fund is hereby created and all moneys collected under this article by the commission  
3 shall be deposited with the State Treasurer to the West Virginia Lottery Interactive Wagering  
4 Fund. The fund shall be an interest-bearing account with all interest or other return earned on the  
5 money of the fund credited to and deposited in the fund. All expenses of the commission incurred  
6 in the administration and enforcement of this article shall be paid from the interactive wagering  
7 fund pursuant to §29-22E-17(b) of this code.

8 (b) The commission shall deduct an amount sufficient to reimburse its actual costs and  
9 expenses incurred in administering interactive wagering at licensed gaming facilities from the  
10 gross deposits into the interactive wagering fund. The amount remaining after the deduction for  
11 administrative expenses is the net profit.

12 (1) Administrative allowance. — The commission shall retain up to 15 percent of gross  
13 deposits for the fund operation and its administrative expenses: *Provided*, That in the event that  
14 the percentage allotted for operations and administration generates a surplus, the surplus shall  
15 be allowed to accumulate but may not exceed \$250,000. On a monthly basis, the director shall  
16 report any surplus in excess of \$250,000 to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance and

17 remit the entire amount of those surplus funds in excess of \$250,000 to the State Treasurer which  
18 shall be allocated as net profit.

19 (2) *Distribution of net profit.* — In each fiscal year, net profit shall be deposited into the  
20 State Lottery Fund created by §29-22-18 of this code unless otherwise required by this code.

**§29-22E-18. Law enforcement.**

1 Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the commission shall, by  
2 contract or cooperative agreement with the West Virginia State Police, arrange for those law-  
3 enforcement services uniquely related to gaming, as such occurs at facilities of the type  
4 authorized by this article, that are necessary to enforce the provisions of this article that are not  
5 subject to federal jurisdiction: *Provided*, That the State Police shall only have exclusive jurisdiction  
6 over offenses committed on the grounds of a licensed gaming facility that are offenses relating to  
7 gaming.

**§29-22E-19. Civil penalties.**

1 (a) The commission may impose, on any person who violates the provisions of this article,  
2 a civil penalty not to exceed \$50,000 for each violation. Such penalty shall be imposed on all  
3 individuals and is not limited to individuals licensed under this article. This provision shall not be  
4 construed as applicable to office pools.

5 (b) The provisions of §29A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code apply to any civil penalty imposed  
6 pursuant to the provisions of this section.

**§29-22E-20. Crimes and penalties related to unauthorized interactive wagering operations.**

1 (a) Any person, other than a licensee under this article, who engages in accepting,  
2 facilitating, or operating a interactive wagering operation is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon  
3 conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or confined in jail for not more than 90  
4 days, or both fined and confined.

5 (b) Notwithstanding the penalty provisions §29-22E-20(a) of this code, any person  
6 convicted of a second violation of §29-22E-20(a) of this code is guilty of a misdemeanor and,

7 upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$50,000, or confined in jail for not more than  
8 six months, or both fined and confined.

9 (c) Notwithstanding the penalty provisions of §29-22E-20(a) or §29-22E-20(b) of this code,  
10 any person convicted of a third or subsequent violation of said §29-22E-20(a) of this code is guilty  
11 of a felony, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$25,000 nor more than  
12 \$100,000 or imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one year nor more than  
13 five years, or both fined and confined.

**§29-22E-21. Crimes and penalties related to authorized interactive wagering operation.**

1 (a) A interactive wagering licensee is guilty of unlawful operation and is guilty of a  
2 misdemeanor when:

3 (1) The licensee operates West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering without authority of  
4 the commission to do so;

5 (2) The licensee operates West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering in any location or by  
6 any manner that is not approved by the commission;

7 (3) The licensee knowingly conducts, carries on, operates, or allows any interactive  
8 wagering to occur on premises or through any other device if equipment or material has been  
9 tampered with, or exposed to conditions in which it will be operated in a manner designed to  
10 deceive the public;

11 (4) The licensee employs an individual who does not hold a valid occupational license in  
12 a position for which a license is required or otherwise allows an individual to perform duties for  
13 which such license is required or continues to employ an individual after the employee's  
14 occupational license is no longer valid;

15 (5) The licensee acts or employs another person to act as if he or she is not an agent or  
16 employee of the licensee in order to encourage participation in West Virginia Lottery interactive  
17 wagering at the licensed gaming facility;

18 (6) The licensee knowingly permits an individual under the age of 21 to enter or remain in  
19 a designated gaming area or to engage in interactive wagering at a licensed gaming facility; or

20 (7) The licensee exchanges tokens, chips, electronic media, or other forms of credit used  
21 for wagering for anything of value except money or credits applied to a interactive wagering  
22 account at a gaming facility authorized under this article.

23 (b) A person is guilty of a felony when:

24 (1) A person changes or alters the normal outcome of any game played on a mobile or  
25 other digital platform, including any interactive gaming system used to monitor the same or the  
26 way in which the outcome is reported to any participant in the game;

27 (3) The person manufactures, sells, or distributes any device that is intended by that  
28 person to be used to violate any provision of this article or the interactive wagering laws of any  
29 other state;

30 (5) The person claims, collects, or takes anything of value from a gaming facility with West  
31 Virginia Lottery interactive wagering with intent to defraud or attempts such action without having  
32 made a wager in which such amount or value is legitimately won or owed;

33 (6) The person knowingly places a wager using counterfeit currency or other counterfeit  
34 form of credit for wagering at a gaming facility with West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering; or

35 (7) The person, not a licensed gaming facility under this article or an employee or agent  
36 of a gaming facility licensed under this article acting in furtherance of the licensee's interest, has  
37 in his or her possession on grounds owned by the gaming facility licensed under this article or on  
38 grounds contiguous to the licensed gaming facility, any device intended to be used to violate a  
39 provision of this article or any rule of the commission.

40 (c) Any person who violates any provision of §29-22E-21(a) of this code is guilty of a  
41 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or confined in jail  
42 for not more than six months, or both fined and confined, except any violation that is not committed  
43 by a natural person may result in a fine of not more than \$25,000.

44 (d) Any person who violates any provision of §29-22E-21(b) of this code is guilty of a felony  
45 and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000, or  
46 confined in a state correctional facility for not less than one year nor more than five years, or both  
47 fined and confined.

48 (e) With regard to §29-22E-21(b) of this code, each West Virginia interactive wagering  
49 licensee shall post notice of the prohibitions and penalties of this section in a manner determined  
50 by the rules of the commission.

**§29-22E-22. Preemption.**

1 No local law or rule providing any penalty, disability, restriction, regulation, or prohibition  
2 for operating a gaming facility with West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering or supplying a  
3 licensed gaming facility may be enacted, and the provisions of this article preempt all regulations,  
4 rules, ordinances, and laws of any county or municipality in conflict with this article.

**§29-22E-23. Exemption from federal law.**

1 Pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 1194, 64 Stat. 1134, 15 U.S.C. §1172, approved January  
2 2, 1951, the State of West Virginia, acting by and through duly elected and qualified members of  
3 the Legislature, does declare and proclaim that the state is exempt from Chapter 1194, 64 Stat.  
4 1134, 15 U.S.C. §1171 to §1178.

**§29-22E-24. Shipment of gambling devices.**

1 All shipments of gambling devices including any interactive wagering devices or related  
2 materials to licensed gaming facilities in this state are legal shipments of gambling devices into  
3 the State of West Virginia, as long as the registering, recording, and labeling of which have been  
4 completed by the supplier thereof in accordance with Chapter 1194, 64 Stat. 1134, 15 U.S.C.  
5 §1171 to §1178.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize interactive wagering as West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering activities.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.