



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2661

Introduced 5/14/2025, by Sen. Patrick J. Joyce

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

230 ILCS 10/7

from Ch. 120, par. 2407

Amends the Illinois Gambling Act. Provides that, if an applicant for an owners license or a host municipality has entered into a revenue-sharing agreement with one or more communities other than the host municipality, the parties to the agreement must file with the Illinois Gaming Board (i) a copy of the revenue-sharing agreement, (ii) a copy of all amendments or other modifications that are made to the revenue-sharing agreement, and (iii) proof of having provided notice to all communities that may be affected in any way by the amendments or modifications to the revenue-sharing agreement. Specifies that, in determining whether to grant or renew an owners license to an applicant, the Board shall consider, among other things, whether the applicant has complied with these requirements. Effective immediately.

LRB104 13629 JDS 26261 b

1 AN ACT concerning gaming.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Gambling Act is amended by
5 changing Section 7 as follows:

6 (230 ILCS 10/7) (from Ch. 120, par. 2407)

7 Sec. 7. Owners licenses.

8 (a) The Board shall issue owners licenses to persons or
9 entities that apply for such licenses upon payment to the
10 Board of the non-refundable license fee as provided in
11 subsection (e) or (e-5) and upon a determination by the Board
12 that the applicant is eligible for an owners license pursuant
13 to this Act and the rules of the Board. From December 15, 2008
14 (the effective date of Public Act 95-1008) until (i) 3 years
15 after December 15, 2008 (the effective date of Public Act
16 95-1008), (ii) the date any organization licensee begins to
17 operate a slot machine or video game of chance under the
18 Illinois Horse Racing Act of 1975 or this Act, (iii) the date
19 that payments begin under subsection (c-5) of Section 13 of
20 this Act, (iv) the wagering tax imposed under Section 13 of
21 this Act is increased by law to reflect a tax rate that is at
22 least as stringent or more stringent than the tax rate
23 contained in subsection (a-3) of Section 13, or (v) when an

1 owners licensee holding a license issued pursuant to Section
2 7.1 of this Act begins conducting gaming, whichever occurs
3 first, as a condition of licensure and as an alternative
4 source of payment for those funds payable under subsection
5 (c-5) of Section 13 of this Act, any owners licensee that holds
6 or receives its owners license on or after May 26, 2006 (the
7 effective date of Public Act 94-804), other than an owners
8 licensee operating a riverboat with adjusted gross receipts in
9 calendar year 2004 of less than \$200,000,000, must pay into
10 the Horse Racing Equity Trust Fund, in addition to any other
11 payments required under this Act, an amount equal to 3% of the
12 adjusted gross receipts received by the owners licensee. The
13 payments required under this Section shall be made by the
14 owners licensee to the State Treasurer no later than 3:00
15 o'clock p.m. of the day after the day when the adjusted gross
16 receipts were received by the owners licensee. A person or
17 entity is ineligible to receive an owners license if:

18 (1) the person has been convicted of a felony under
19 the laws of this State, any other state, or the United
20 States;

21 (2) the person has been convicted of any violation of
22 Article 28 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal
23 Code of 2012, or substantially similar laws of any other
24 jurisdiction;

25 (3) the person has submitted an application for a
26 license under this Act which contains false information;

1 (4) the person is a member of the Board;

2 (5) a person defined in (1), (2), (3), or (4) is an
3 officer, director, or managerial employee of the entity;

4 (6) the entity employs a person defined in (1), (2),
5 (3), or (4) who participates in the management or
6 operation of gambling operations authorized under this
7 Act;

8 (7) (blank); or

9 (8) a license of the person or entity issued under
10 this Act, or a license to own or operate gambling
11 facilities in any other jurisdiction, has been revoked.

12 The Board is expressly prohibited from making changes to
13 the requirement that licensees make payment into the Horse
14 Racing Equity Trust Fund without the express authority of the
15 Illinois General Assembly and making any other rule to
16 implement or interpret Public Act 95-1008. For the purposes of
17 this paragraph, "rules" is given the meaning given to that
18 term in Section 1-70 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure
19 Act.

20 (b) In determining whether to grant or renew an owners
21 license to an applicant, the Board shall consider:

22 (1) the character, reputation, experience, and
23 financial integrity of the applicants and of any other or
24 separate person that either:

25 (A) controls, directly or indirectly, such
26 applicant; or

1 (B) is controlled, directly or indirectly, by such
2 applicant or by a person which controls, directly or
3 indirectly, such applicant;

4 (2) the facilities or proposed facilities for the
5 conduct of gambling;

6 (3) the highest prospective total revenue to be
7 derived by the State from the conduct of gambling;

8 (4) the extent to which the ownership of the applicant
9 reflects the diversity of the State by including minority
10 persons, women, and persons with a disability and the good
11 faith affirmative action plan of each applicant to
12 recruit, train and upgrade minority persons, women, and
13 persons with a disability in all employment
14 classifications; the Board shall further consider granting
15 an owners license and giving preference to an applicant
16 under this Section to applicants in which minority persons
17 and women hold ownership interest of at least 16% and 4%,
18 respectively;

19 (4.5) the extent to which the ownership of the
20 applicant includes veterans of service in the armed forces
21 of the United States, and the good faith affirmative
22 action plan of each applicant to recruit, train, and
23 upgrade veterans of service in the armed forces of the
24 United States in all employment classifications;

25 (5) the financial ability of the applicant to purchase
26 and maintain adequate liability and casualty insurance;

1 (6) whether the applicant has adequate capitalization
2 to provide and maintain, for the duration of a license, a
3 riverboat or casino;

4 (7) the extent to which the applicant exceeds or meets
5 other standards for the issuance of an owners license
6 which the Board may adopt by rule;

7 (8) the amount of the applicant's license bid;

8 (9) the extent to which the applicant or the proposed
9 host municipality plans to enter into revenue-sharing
10 ~~revenue sharing~~ agreements with communities other than the
11 host municipality;

12 (9.5) whether the applicant has complied with
13 subsection (b-5) of this Section;

14 (10) the extent to which the ownership of an applicant
15 includes the most qualified number of minority persons,
16 women, and persons with a disability; and

17 (11) whether the applicant has entered into a fully
18 executed construction project labor agreement with the
19 applicable local building trades council.

20 (b-5) If an applicant for an owners license or a host
21 municipality has entered into a revenue-sharing agreement with
22 one or more communities other than the host municipality, the
23 parties to the revenue-sharing agreement must file with the
24 Board (i) a copy of the revenue-sharing agreement, (ii) a copy
25 of all amendments or other modifications that are made to the
26 revenue-sharing agreement, and (iii) proof of having provided

1 notice to all communities that may be affected in any way by
2 the amendments or modifications to the revenue-sharing
3 agreement.

4 (c) Each owners license shall specify the place where the
5 casino shall operate or the riverboat shall operate and dock.

6 (d) Each applicant shall submit with his or her
7 application, on forms provided by the Board, 2 sets of his or
8 her fingerprints.

9 (e) In addition to any licenses authorized under
10 subsection (e-5) of this Section, the Board may issue up to 10
11 licenses authorizing the holders of such licenses to own
12 riverboats. In the application for an owners license, the
13 applicant shall state the dock at which the riverboat is based
14 and the water on which the riverboat will be located. The Board
15 shall issue 5 licenses to become effective not earlier than
16 January 1, 1991. Three of such licenses shall authorize
17 riverboat gambling on the Mississippi River, or, with approval
18 by the municipality in which the riverboat was docked on
19 August 7, 2003 and with Board approval, be authorized to
20 relocate to a new location, in a municipality that (1) borders
21 on the Mississippi River or is within 5 miles of the city
22 limits of a municipality that borders on the Mississippi River
23 and (2) on August 7, 2003, had a riverboat conducting
24 riverboat gambling operations pursuant to a license issued
25 under this Act; one of which shall authorize riverboat
26 gambling from a home dock in the city of East St. Louis; and

1 one of which shall authorize riverboat gambling from a home
2 dock in the City of Alton. One other license shall authorize
3 riverboat gambling on the Illinois River in the City of East
4 Peoria or, with Board approval, shall authorize land-based
5 gambling operations anywhere within the corporate limits of
6 the City of Peoria. The Board shall issue one additional
7 license to become effective not earlier than March 1, 1992,
8 which shall authorize riverboat gambling on the Des Plaines
9 River in Will County. The Board may issue 4 additional
10 licenses to become effective not earlier than March 1, 1992.
11 In determining the water upon which riverboats will operate,
12 the Board shall consider the economic benefit which riverboat
13 gambling confers on the State, and shall seek to assure that
14 all regions of the State share in the economic benefits of
15 riverboat gambling.

16 In granting all licenses, the Board may give favorable
17 consideration to economically depressed areas of the State, to
18 applicants presenting plans which provide for significant
19 economic development over a large geographic area, and to
20 applicants who currently operate non-gambling riverboats in
21 Illinois. The Board shall review all applications for owners
22 licenses, and shall inform each applicant of the Board's
23 decision. The Board may grant an owners license to an
24 applicant that has not submitted the highest license bid, but
25 if it does not select the highest bidder, the Board shall issue
26 a written decision explaining why another applicant was

1 selected and identifying the factors set forth in this Section
2 that favored the winning bidder. The fee for issuance or
3 renewal of a license pursuant to this subsection (e) shall be
4 \$250,000.

5 (e-5) In addition to licenses authorized under subsection
6 (e) of this Section:

7 (1) the Board may issue one owners license authorizing
8 the conduct of casino gambling in the City of Chicago;

9 (2) the Board may issue one owners license authorizing
10 the conduct of riverboat gambling in the City of Danville;

11 (3) the Board may issue one owners license authorizing
12 the conduct of riverboat gambling in the City of Waukegan;

13 (4) the Board may issue one owners license authorizing
14 the conduct of riverboat gambling in the City of Rockford;

15 (5) the Board may issue one owners license authorizing
16 the conduct of riverboat gambling in a municipality that
17 is wholly or partially located in one of the following
18 townships of Cook County: Bloom, Bremen, Calumet, Rich,
19 Thornton, or Worth Township; and

20 (6) the Board may issue one owners license authorizing
21 the conduct of riverboat gambling in the unincorporated
22 area of Williamson County adjacent to the Big Muddy River.

23 Except for the license authorized under paragraph (1),
24 each application for a license pursuant to this subsection
25 (e-5) shall be submitted to the Board no later than 120 days
26 after June 28, 2019 (the effective date of Public Act 101-31).

1 All applications for a license under this subsection (e-5)
2 shall include the nonrefundable application fee and the
3 nonrefundable background investigation fee as provided in
4 subsection (d) of Section 6 of this Act. In the event that an
5 applicant submits an application for a license pursuant to
6 this subsection (e-5) prior to June 28, 2019 (the effective
7 date of Public Act 101-31), such applicant shall submit the
8 nonrefundable application fee and background investigation fee
9 as provided in subsection (d) of Section 6 of this Act no later
10 than 6 months after June 28, 2019 (the effective date of Public
11 Act 101-31).

12 The Board shall consider issuing a license pursuant to
13 paragraphs (1) through (6) of this subsection only after the
14 corporate authority of the municipality or the county board of
15 the county in which the riverboat or casino shall be located
16 has certified to the Board the following:

17 (i) that the applicant has negotiated with the
18 corporate authority or county board in good faith;

19 (ii) that the applicant and the corporate authority or
20 county board have mutually agreed on the permanent
21 location of the riverboat or casino;

22 (iii) that the applicant and the corporate authority
23 or county board have mutually agreed on the temporary
24 location of the riverboat or casino;

25 (iv) that the applicant and the corporate authority or
26 the county board have mutually agreed on the percentage of

1 revenues that will be shared with the municipality or
2 county, if any;

3 (v) that the applicant and the corporate authority or
4 county board have mutually agreed on any zoning,
5 licensing, public health, or other issues that are within
6 the jurisdiction of the municipality or county;

7 (vi) that the corporate authority or county board has
8 passed a resolution or ordinance in support of the
9 riverboat or casino in the municipality or county;

10 (vii) the applicant for a license under paragraph (1)
11 has made a public presentation concerning its casino
12 proposal; and

13 (viii) the applicant for a license under paragraph (1)
14 has prepared a summary of its casino proposal and such
15 summary has been posted on a public website of the
16 municipality or the county.

17 At least 7 days before the corporate authority of a
18 municipality or county board of the county submits a
19 certification to the Board concerning items (i) through (viii)
20 of this subsection, it shall hold a public hearing to discuss
21 items (i) through (viii), as well as any other details
22 concerning the proposed riverboat or casino in the
23 municipality or county. The corporate authority or county
24 board must subsequently memorialize the details concerning the
25 proposed riverboat or casino in a resolution that must be
26 adopted by a majority of the corporate authority or county

1 board before any certification is sent to the Board. The Board
2 shall not alter, amend, change, or otherwise interfere with
3 any agreement between the applicant and the corporate
4 authority of the municipality or county board of the county
5 regarding the location of any temporary or permanent facility.

6 In addition, within 10 days after June 28, 2019 (the
7 effective date of Public Act 101-31), the Board, with consent
8 and at the expense of the City of Chicago, shall select and
9 retain the services of a nationally recognized casino gaming
10 feasibility consultant. Within 45 days after June 28, 2019
11 (the effective date of Public Act 101-31), the consultant
12 shall prepare and deliver to the Board a study concerning the
13 feasibility of, and the ability to finance, a casino in the
14 City of Chicago. The feasibility study shall be delivered to
15 the Mayor of the City of Chicago, the Governor, the President
16 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives. Ninety days after receipt of the feasibility
18 study, the Board shall make a determination, based on the
19 results of the feasibility study, whether to recommend to the
20 General Assembly that the terms of the license under paragraph
21 (1) of this subsection (e-5) should be modified. The Board may
22 begin accepting applications for the owners license under
23 paragraph (1) of this subsection (e-5) upon the determination
24 to issue such an owners license.

25 In addition, prior to the Board issuing the owners license
26 authorized under paragraph (4) of subsection (e-5), an impact

1 study shall be completed to determine what location in the
2 city will provide the greater impact to the region, including
3 the creation of jobs and the generation of tax revenue.

4 (e-10) The licenses authorized under subsection (e-5) of
5 this Section shall be issued within 12 months after the date
6 the license application is submitted. If the Board does not
7 issue the licenses within that time period, then the Board
8 shall give a written explanation to the applicant as to why it
9 has not reached a determination and when it reasonably expects
10 to make a determination. The fee for the issuance or renewal of
11 a license issued pursuant to this subsection (e-10) shall be
12 \$250,000. Additionally, a licensee located outside of Cook
13 County shall pay a minimum initial fee of \$17,500 per gaming
14 position, and a licensee located in Cook County shall pay a
15 minimum initial fee of \$30,000 per gaming position. The
16 initial fees payable under this subsection (e-10) shall be
17 deposited into the Rebuild Illinois Projects Fund. If at any
18 point after June 1, 2020 there are no pending applications for
19 a license under subsection (e-5) and not all licenses
20 authorized under subsection (e-5) have been issued, then the
21 Board shall reopen the license application process for those
22 licenses authorized under subsection (e-5) that have not been
23 issued. The Board shall follow the licensing process provided
24 in subsection (e-5) with all time frames tied to the last date
25 of a final order issued by the Board under subsection (e-5)
26 rather than the effective date of the amendatory Act.

1 (e-15) Each licensee of a license authorized under
2 subsection (e-5) of this Section shall make a reconciliation
3 payment 3 years after the date the licensee begins operating
4 in an amount equal to 75% of the adjusted gross receipts for
5 the most lucrative 12-month period of operations, minus an
6 amount equal to the initial payment per gaming position paid
7 by the specific licensee. Each licensee shall pay a
8 \$15,000,000 reconciliation fee upon issuance of an owners
9 license. If this calculation results in a negative amount,
10 then the licensee is not entitled to any reimbursement of fees
11 previously paid. This reconciliation payment may be made in
12 installments over a period of no more than 6 years.

13 All payments by licensees under this subsection (e-15)
14 shall be deposited into the Rebuild Illinois Projects Fund.

15 (e-20) In addition to any other revocation powers granted
16 to the Board under this Act, the Board may revoke the owners
17 license of a licensee which fails to begin conducting gambling
18 within 15 months of receipt of the Board's approval of the
19 application if the Board determines that license revocation is
20 in the best interests of the State.

21 (f) The first 10 owners licenses issued under this Act
22 shall permit the holder to own up to 2 riverboats and equipment
23 thereon for a period of 3 years after the effective date of the
24 license. Holders of the first 10 owners licenses must pay the
25 annual license fee for each of the 3 years during which they
26 are authorized to own riverboats.

1 (g) Upon the termination, expiration, or revocation of
2 each of the first 10 licenses, which shall be issued for a
3 3-year period, all licenses are renewable annually upon
4 payment of the fee and a determination by the Board that the
5 licensee continues to meet all of the requirements of this Act
6 and the Board's rules. However, for licenses renewed on or
7 after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd
8 General Assembly, renewal shall be for a period of 4 years.

9 (h) An owners license, except for an owners license issued
10 under subsection (e-5) of this Section, shall entitle the
11 licensee to own up to 2 riverboats.

12 An owners licensee of a casino or riverboat that is
13 located in the City of Chicago pursuant to paragraph (1) of
14 subsection (e-5) of this Section shall limit the number of
15 gaming positions to 4,000 for such owner. An owners licensee
16 authorized under subsection (e) or paragraph (2), (3), (4), or
17 (5) of subsection (e-5) of this Section shall limit the number
18 of gaming positions to 2,000 for any such owners license. An
19 owners licensee authorized under paragraph (6) of subsection
20 (e-5) of this Section shall limit the number of gaming
21 positions to 1,200 for such owner. The initial fee for each
22 gaming position obtained on or after June 28, 2019 (the
23 effective date of Public Act 101-31) shall be a minimum of
24 \$17,500 for licensees not located in Cook County and a minimum
25 of \$30,000 for licensees located in Cook County, in addition
26 to the reconciliation payment, as set forth in subsection

1 (e-15) of this Section. The fees under this subsection (h)
2 shall be deposited into the Rebuild Illinois Projects Fund.
3 The fees under this subsection (h) that are paid by an owners
4 licensee authorized under subsection (e) shall be paid by July
5 1, 2021.

6 Each owners licensee under subsection (e) of this Section
7 shall reserve its gaming positions within 30 days after June
8 28, 2019 (the effective date of Public Act 101-31). The Board
9 may grant an extension to this 30-day period, provided that
10 the owners licensee submits a written request and explanation
11 as to why it is unable to reserve its positions within the
12 30-day period.

13 Each owners licensee under subsection (e-5) of this
14 Section shall reserve its gaming positions within 30 days
15 after issuance of its owners license. The Board may grant an
16 extension to this 30-day period, provided that the owners
17 licensee submits a written request and explanation as to why
18 it is unable to reserve its positions within the 30-day
19 period.

20 A licensee may operate both of its riverboats
21 concurrently, provided that the total number of gaming
22 positions on both riverboats does not exceed the limit
23 established pursuant to this subsection. Riverboats licensed
24 to operate on the Mississippi River and the Illinois River
25 south of Marshall County shall have an authorized capacity of
26 at least 500 persons. Any other riverboat licensed under this

1 Act shall have an authorized capacity of at least 400 persons.

2 (h-5) An owners licensee who conducted gambling operations
3 prior to January 1, 2012 and obtains positions pursuant to
4 Public Act 101-31 shall make a reconciliation payment 3 years
5 after any additional gaming positions begin operating in an
6 amount equal to 75% of the owners licensee's average gross
7 receipts for the most lucrative 12-month period of operations
8 minus an amount equal to the initial fee that the owners
9 licensee paid per additional gaming position. For purposes of
10 this subsection (h-5), "average gross receipts" means (i) the
11 increase in adjusted gross receipts for the most lucrative
12 12-month period of operations over the adjusted gross receipts
13 for 2019, multiplied by (ii) the percentage derived by
14 dividing the number of additional gaming positions that an
15 owners licensee had obtained by the total number of gaming
16 positions operated by the owners licensee. If this calculation
17 results in a negative amount, then the owners licensee is not
18 entitled to any reimbursement of fees previously paid. This
19 reconciliation payment may be made in installments over a
20 period of no more than 6 years. These reconciliation payments
21 shall be deposited into the Rebuild Illinois Projects Fund.

22 (i) A licensed owner is authorized to apply to the Board
23 for and, if approved therefor, to receive all licenses from
24 the Board necessary for the operation of a riverboat or
25 casino, including a liquor license, a license to prepare and
26 serve food for human consumption, and other necessary

1 licenses. All use, occupation, and excise taxes which apply to
2 the sale of food and beverages in this State and all taxes
3 imposed on the sale or use of tangible personal property apply
4 to such sales aboard the riverboat or in the casino.

5 (j) The Board may issue or re-issue a license authorizing
6 a riverboat to dock in a municipality or approve a relocation
7 under Section 11.2 only if, prior to the issuance or
8 re-issuance of the license or approval, the governing body of
9 the municipality in which the riverboat will dock has by a
10 majority vote approved the docking of riverboats in the
11 municipality. The Board may issue or re-issue a license
12 authorizing a riverboat to dock in areas of a county outside
13 any municipality or approve a relocation under Section 11.2
14 only if, prior to the issuance or re-issuance of the license or
15 approval, the governing body of the county has by a majority
16 vote approved of the docking of riverboats within such areas.

17 (k) An owners licensee may conduct land-based gambling
18 operations upon approval by the Board and payment of a fee of
19 \$250,000, which shall be deposited into the State Gaming Fund.

20 (l) An owners licensee may conduct gaming at a temporary
21 facility pending the construction of a permanent facility or
22 the remodeling or relocation of an existing facility to
23 accommodate gaming participants for up to 24 months after the
24 temporary facility begins to conduct gaming. Upon request by
25 an owners licensee and upon a showing of good cause by the
26 owners licensee: (i) for a licensee authorized under paragraph

1 (3) of subsection (e-5), the Board shall extend the period
2 during which the licensee may conduct gaming at a temporary
3 facility by up to 30 months; and (ii) for all other licensees,
4 the Board shall extend the period during which the licensee
5 may conduct gaming at a temporary facility by up to 12 months.
6 The Board shall make rules concerning the conduct of gaming
7 from temporary facilities.

8 (Source: P.A. 102-13, eff. 6-10-21; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21;
9 103-574, eff. 12-8-23.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.