

W. Va. Gambling Legislation History ---- 1984 to Present

1984.....Lottery Constitutional Amendment that the legislature adopted in 1983 (SJR 3) is placed on the ballot and passes by a 437,357 to 219,453 vote on November 6, 1984. The amendment permits the legislature to authorize state operated and controlled lotteries where before the language said the Legislature shall have no power to authorize lotteries.

1985.....The Lottery is created with seven commissioners, a director, fees, and 45% for prizes, 40% net net profit and 15% for operation and administration (HB 1929).

1989.....Racetrack wagering is allowed on property contiguous to the racetracks (SB 6). Sunday racing at the racetrack is authorized after comment period, and if 15% of the voters sign a petition a local election shows support (HB 2395).

Lottery revenues are designated to education, seniors and commerce/tourism promotion (HB2392).

1990.....Lottery is authorized to use bingo, roulette, dice and casino gambling themes (HB 4399).

1992.....New super bingo license entitles the holder to conduct \$35,000 in prizes per quarter (HB 4135). Horse and Dog tracks allowed to televise each other's races (SB 389).

1994.....The four race tracks are authorized to operate video lottery terminals and games, if approved by a local option election. The horse and dog tracks are permitted to install up to 400 video lottery terminals but may request up to 600 total which will pay off in tickets redeemed for cash. This measure was pushed to bail out the horse and dog tracks that were losing money. Travel and keno lottery games are also authorized at locations selling beer or liquor. (HB 5016).

1996.....Video lottery games at the four tracks are allowed to use video displays depicting symbols which appear to roll on drums to simulate a classic slot machine (HB 4159). Super bingo prizes are increased to \$50,000 per month and from \$7,500 to \$10,000 per occasion with raffle prize limitations eliminated (HB 4479).

1997.....Simulcasting of races within the state is permitted and the number of required live racing days is reduced from 220 to 210, or to 185 for certain circumstances (HB 2595).

1998.....The number of video terminals at non grandstand locations is increased (HB 4632) . 1% of the racetrack proceeds are distributed to Veterans Memorial and other cost (SB 761).

1999.....Casino gambling is authorized at the Greenbrier Hotel for registered overnight guests after approval of county voter through a local election (SB 380). (On November 7, 2000 the voters in Greenbrier County soundly reject casino gambling despite the Hotel spending over \$1 million.) Coin payout at racetrack video lottery machines is permitted (HB 3029).

2000.....Removal of the requirement that racetracks with have video lottery terminals in a building that is not part of the track, put an additional terminal in the track area for every two terminals in the nonconforming locations.(SB 362).

2001.....Authorizes 9000 video poker machines statewide with up to five at clubs and ten at fraternal or veterans facilities for 10-year annual \$1000 fees per machine. Does not provide county option or statewide referendum. Increases bets on racetrack slot machines from \$2 to \$5. Projected to raises \$112 million in new revenues FY 2002 and \$217 million thereafter to provide pay raises and a means tested increase in senior homestead exemptions (HB 102).