

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 572
2 INTRODUCED BY K. ZOLNIKOV, S. KERNS, C. KNUDSEN, B. LER, E. BUTTREY, L. JONES, D. LOGE, B.
3 USHER, G. HERTZ, C. GLIMM, K. BOGNER, D. ZOLNIKOV, J. TREBAS, F. MANDEVILLE
4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS PERTAINING TO ~~VIDEO-GAMBLING MACHINE~~
6 PRIZES; INCREASING THE LIMIT ON PRIZES FOR AN INDIVIDUAL LIVE CARD GAME FROM \$800 TO
7 \$1,999; INCREASING THE LIMIT ON VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE GAME LIMITS FROM \$2 TO \$3;
8 INCREASING THE LIMIT ON AWARDING FREE GAMES OR CREDITS FROM \$800 TO \$1,199; REVISING
9 THE CREDIT RATIO FOR CERTAIN VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE GAMES; AMENDING SECTIONS 23-5-
10 312, 23-5-607, AND 23-5-608, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

11
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
13

14 **Section 1.** Section 23-5-312, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"23-5-312. Prizes not to exceed \$800 \$1,999.** (1) A prize for an individual live card game may not
16 exceed the value of ~~\$800~~ \$1,999. Games may not be combined in any manner so as to increase the value of
17 the ultimate prize awarded. Except during a tournament conducted under 23-5-317, all prizes must be awarded
18 immediately upon completion of each hand.

19 (2) If a licensed operator conducts a promotional game of chance involving a live card game, the
20 prize limit provided for in subsection (1) applies to prizes awarded as a result of the promotional game of
21 chance."
22

23 **Section 2.** Section 23-5-607, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"23-5-607. Expected payback -- verification.** (1) The department shall prescribe the expected
25 payback value of credit awarded to be at least 80% of the value of credit played for each bingo, poker, keno,
26 and video line game in a video gambling machine. The credit ratio may not be greater than:

- 27 (a) 92% for each video line game;
- 28 (b) 96.5% for each bingo and keno game; and

1 (c) 97.5% for each poker game.

2 (2) Each video gambling machine must have an electronic accounting device that the department
3 may use to verify the winning percentage."

4

5 **Section 3.** Section 23-5-608, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"23-5-608. Limitation on amount of money played and value of prizes -- payment of credits in**
7 **cash -- ticket voucher expiration -- rules.** (1) A video gambling machine may not allow more than ~~\$2~~ \$3 to be
8 played on a game or award free games or credits in excess of ~~\$800~~ \$1,199 a game.

9 (2) A licensee shall pay in cash all credits owed to a player as shown on a valid ticket voucher.

10 (3) The department may establish by rule a reasonable time period during which a player shall
11 present a valid ticket voucher to the licensee for payment before the voucher may be considered expired and
12 invalid."

13

14 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is
15 effective January 1, 2024.

16 (2) [Section 2] and this section are effective on passage and approval.

17

18 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Applicability -- Grandfather.** [Section 1] applies to video gambling
19 machine games placed into operation on or after January 1, 2024.

20

- END -