
CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION

Age in casino areas

- Permits an individual who is less than 21 years of age, who is personally escorted by licensed casino personnel, to enter a designated area of a casino facility where casino gaming is being conducted to pass to another area where casino gaming is not being conducted.

Facial recognition cameras

- Allows the Ohio Casino Control Commission, the Attorney General, and the State Lottery Commission to adopt rules related to requiring security equipment that captures facial feature pattern characteristics in certain locations at a casino facility, sweepstakes terminal device facility, or video lottery sales agent facility, as applicable.

Casino Control Commission Enforcement Fund

- Creates in the state treasury the Casino Control Commission Enforcement Fund, which must contain all moneys that are derived from any fines, mandatory fines, forfeited bail, or forfeitures to which the Ohio Casino Control Commission is entitled.
- With certain exceptions, states that the moneys in the Fund must be used solely to subsidize the Commission's Division of Enforcement.
- Specifies that moneys in the Fund that are derived from forfeitures of property under federal law must be used and accounted for in accordance with the applicable federal law.
- Amends the Forfeiture Law to include the Commission as a law enforcement agency under that Law.
- Requires the Executive Director of the Commission to file a report verifying moneys in the Fund were used in accordance with relevant law.

Age in casino areas

(R.C. 3772.24)

The bill specifies that an individual who is less than 21 years of age may enter a designated area of a casino facility where casino gaming is being conducted, as established by the Ohio Casino Control Commission, to pass to another area where casino gaming is not being conducted, but only if the individual is personally escorted by licensed casino personnel, as approved by the Commission, who at all times remain in close proximity to the individual.

Current law allows an individual who is less than 21 years of age to enter a designated area of a casino facility where casino gaming is being conducted, as established by the Commission, to pass to another area where casino gaming is not being conducted, but does not require the individual to be escorted by casino personnel.

Facial recognition cameras

(R.C. 2915.02, 3770.21, and 3772.03)

Under the bill, the Ohio Casino Control Commission can adopt rules that include security and surveillance standards and requirements that require a casino operator, holding company, or management company to install security and surveillance equipment where any chips, tokens, tickets, electronic cards, or similar objects can be redeemed for cash, whether by a casino gaming employee or by electronic means, that must capture, for law enforcement purposes, facial feature pattern characteristics, including a computerized facial image, and that must require such records to be retained for at least five years.

Similarly, the bill permits the Attorney General to adopt rules with the same criteria described above, in consultation with the Commission, for sweepstakes terminal device facilities and permits the State Lottery Commission to adopt rules with the same criteria described above, in consultation with the Ohio Casino Control Commission, for video lottery sales agents.

The Ohio Casino Control Commission, Attorney General, or State Lottery Commission, as applicable, can secure, by agreement, information and services as is considered necessary from any state agency or other unit of state government.

All costs related to the installation of security and surveillance equipment must be the responsibility of the casino operator, management company, or holding company, the sweepstakes terminal device facility, or the video lottery sales agent, as applicable.

Casino Control Commission Enforcement Fund

(R.C. 2981.01, 2981.13, and 3772.36)

The bill creates in the state treasury the Casino Control Commission Enforcement Fund, and specifies that all moneys that are derived from any fines, mandatory fines, or forfeited bail to which the Commission is entitled under the Casino Law and all moneys that are derived from forfeitures of property to which the Commission is entitled under Ohio law (including the Casino Law and the Forfeiture Law) or federal law must be deposited into the Fund. The bill amends the Forfeiture Law to include the Commission as a law enforcement agency under that Law, which brings the Commission under the Law's provisions related to seizure, care, disposal, and sale of property subject to forfeiture.

Generally, the moneys in the Fund must be used solely to subsidize the Commission's Division of Enforcement and its efforts to ensure the integrity of casino gaming. However, the bill creates some exceptions to this general usage requirement as described below:

(1) Moneys that are derived from forfeitures of property under federal law and that are deposited into the Fund must be used and accounted for in accordance with the applicable federal law, and the Commission otherwise must comply with federal law in connection with that money.

(2) Moneys acquired from a sale of contraband or forfeited instrumentalities and any proceeds forfeited under the Forfeiture Law must be distributed according to the order specified in that Law.

(3) Moneys remaining after other distributions under the Forfeiture Law must be used as provided in that Law, including for law enforcement purposes that the Commission determines to be appropriate, but not to meet the operating costs of the Commission.

Additionally, the Executive Director of the Commission must file a report with the Attorney General not later than January 31 of the next calendar year, verifying that cash and forfeited proceeds paid into the Fund were used only in accordance with the relevant law and specifying the amounts expended for each authorized purpose.

