

Video Gaming

On July 13, 2009 Governor Pat Quinn signed the Video Gaming Act (Public Acts 096-0034, 096-0037 and 096-0038) (the “Act”) making Licensed Video Gaming Terminals legal in Illinois. The Act allows for Licensed Video Gaming Terminals to be placed in certain liquor establishments, truck stops and fraternal/veterans clubs throughout the State. The Illinois Gaming Board (the “IGB” or “Board”) has the responsibility of implementing and regulating video gaming in Illinois.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Video Gaming Act and Video Gaming License Applications

Updated April 2012

Answers to some common and frequently asked questions related to the Video Gaming Act and Video Gaming License Applications are provided below. The following list is non-exhaustive and may be supplemented or updated in the future.

Q1: What is a Video Gaming Terminal?

A1: A “Video Gaming Terminal” (“VGT”) is an electronic video gaming machine that plays or simulates the play of a video game authorized by the Board upon the insertion of cash. Authorized video games include, but are not limited to, video poker, line up, and blackjack. The VGT must utilize a video display and microprocessors in which the player may receive free games or credits that can be redeemed for cash. VGT does not include a Terminal that directly dispenses coins, cash, or tokens or is for amusement purposes only.

Q2: Does the IGB have jurisdiction over “amusement only” devices in Illinois?

A2: The IGB does not license “amusement only” devices in Illinois. Questions about the licensure of such devices should be directed to the Illinois Department of Revenue at (312) 814-5232 (Chicago) or (217) 782-3336 (Springfield).

Questions or complaints about amusement only devices that illegally pay out should be directed to the police in the municipality where the Terminals are located.

Q3: When will the IGB adopt Rules for video gaming?

A3: The IGB has adopted Administrative Rules which will dictate how video gaming will operate and be regulated in Illinois. (11 Ill. Admin. Code 1800 et seq.) The Rules can be found on the IGB website, at www.igb.state.il.us/VideoGaming. The IGB continues to promulgate additional rules and the text of any pending rule along with information on how to submit comments on the rule is also posted on the IGB website.

Q4: Can local jurisdictions restrict the use of VGTs?

A4: Yes. A municipality may pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the corporate limits of the municipality. A county board may pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the unincorporated areas of the county. Video gaming is not allowed in these communities. The IGB is in the process of developing a list of such communities and will post the list on its website in the near future.



**Welch
Gaming**

7206 N. Terra Vista Drive
Peoria, IL 61614-1352
P 309.690.6799/866.286.7961
F 309.692.4643
www.welchatm.com

A4 (cont.): In addition, a local government may hold a referendum proposing to prohibit video gaming in the municipality. This is otherwise known as an “opt-out” provision. A petition for referendum must be filed in the office of the clerk (municipal or county) at least 90 days before the date of an election. If a majority of the voters vote “YES,” video gaming shall be prohibited within the municipality or county. Petitions to prohibit video gaming shall be public documents. A list of the communities that have opted out of video gaming is posted on the IGB website.

If you have any questions about the status of your community, please contact your local municipal authority.

Q5: What types of licenses will the IGB issue, and when will applications for those licenses be made available?

A5: Applications for Manufacturer, Distributor, Supplier, Terminal Operator and Location licenses are currently available on the IGB website. Applications for Technician and Terminal Handler licenses will be available in the near future. Descriptions of the licenses are as follows:

“Manufacturer.” A manufacturer is an individual, partnership corporation or limited liability company licensed to manufacture or assemble video gaming terminals.

“Distributor.” A distributor is an individual, partnership corporation, or limited liability company licensed to buy, sell, lease, or distribute video gaming terminals, or major components or parts thereof, to or from terminal operators.

“Supplier.” A supplier is an individual, partnership corporation or limited liability company licensed to supply major components or parts of video gaming terminals to terminal operators.

“Terminal operator.” A terminal operator is an individual, partnership corporation or limited liability company licensed to own, service, and maintain video gaming terminals for placement in licensed establishments, licensed truck stop establishments, licensed fraternal establishments, or licensed veterans establishments.

“Licensed video gaming location.” A licensed establishment, licensed fraternal establishment, licensed veterans establishment, or licensed truck stop establishment, all defined in Question 6, below.

“Licensed Technician.” A licensed technician is an individual licensed to repair, service, and maintain video gaming terminals. A licensed technician is not licensed under the Act to possess or control a video gaming terminal or have access to the inner workings of a video gaming terminal (i.e., the logic area maintained in a separately locked cabinet of the video gaming terminal which houses electronic components that have the potential to significantly influence the operation of the video gaming terminal). As such, licensed technicians can repair, service and maintain VGTs only outside of the innermost locked area of a VGT housing the electronic logic components that have the potential to significantly influence the operation of the VGT. Such repairs and maintenance would include refilling printer paper, repairing bill validators, resetting tilted Terminals, repairing video displays, etc.

“Licensed Terminal Handler.” A licensed terminal handler is a person licensed to possess or control a video gaming terminal or to have access to the inner workings of a video gaming terminal (i.e., the logic area maintained in a separately locked cabinet of the video gaming terminal which houses electronic components that have the potential to significantly influence the operation of the video gaming terminal.) The category of “licensed terminal handler” may include, but is not limited to, an employee or independent contractor working for a manufacturer, distributor, supplier, technician, or terminal operator.

Q6: What types of locations can be licensed to have VGTs?



**Welch
Gaming**

7206 N. Terra Vista Drive
Peoria, IL 61614-1352
P 309.690.6799/866.286.7961
F 309.692.4643
www.welchatm.com

A6: Video Gaming Terminals may only be placed in the following four categories of Licensed Locations:

“Licensed establishment.” A licensed establishment is any licensed retail establishment where alcoholic liquor is served for consumption on the premises.

“Licensed fraternal establishment.” A licensed fraternal establishment is a location where a fraternal organization that derives its charter from its national parent organization regularly meets.

“Licensed veterans establishment.” A licensed veterans establishment is a location where a qualified veterans organization that holds a charter from its national parent organization regularly meets.

“Licensed truck stop establishment.” A licensed truck stop establishment is a facility of at least three acres with a convenience store, separate diesel islands for fueling commercial motor vehicles, parking spaces for commercial vehicles, and that sells at retail more than 10,000 gallons of diesel or biodiesel fuel per month.

Q7: What type of documentation will be required to meet the definition of Licensed Truck Stop Establishment?

A7: An affidavit confirming that the facility is at least 3 acres and has average monthly sales of more than 10,000 gallons of diesel or biodiesel fuel per month (which may be met by showing estimated future sales or past sales). Supporting documentation for these factors must be attached to the affidavit.

Q8: What type of documentation will be required to meet the definition of Licensed Fraternal or Veterans Establishment?

A8: A copy of the most recent letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating that the Applicant organization is either a fraternal benefit society that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code, a domestic fraternal society that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a veterans organization that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Q9: Who needs to obtain a Technician license under the Video Gaming Act?

A9: If an individual is a Licensed Terminal Operator, or is employed by a Licensed Terminal Operator, Licensed Distributor or Licensed Manufacturer, that individual may service, maintain or repair a VGT without obtaining a Technician license. Any other individual who services, maintains or repairs a VGT must obtain a Technician license under the Act.

Q10: Who needs to obtain a Terminal Handler license under the Video Gaming Act?

A10: Any individual needing access to the inner workings of a VGT. “Inner workings” comprises the logic area inside of a VGT. The logic area has a separate locked compartment inside the VGT which houses electronic components that have the potential to significantly influence the operation of the VGT. The specific electronic components contained in the logic area include: (1) the game’s central processing unit(s), (2) communication controller electronics and components housing the communication storage device, and (3) the memory back-up device.

Q11: Can an individual be licensed as a Licensed Technician and a Licensed Terminal Handler?

A11: Yes.



**Welch
Gaming**

7206 N. Terra Vista Drive
Peoria, IL 61614-1352
P 309.690.6799/866.286.7961
F 309.692.4643
www.welchatm.com

Q12: Does a company who provides ticket payout systems to Licensed Terminal Operators and Licensed Locations need to be licensed?

A12: Yes. Major Components or Parts is defined in the applications as “[c]omponents or parts that compromise the inner workings and peripherals of a Video Gaming Terminal, including but not limited to the device’s hardware, software, human interface devices, interface ports, power supply, ticket payout system, bill validator, printer and any component which affects or could affect the result of a Game played on the device.” Buying, selling, leasing, or distributing Major Components or Parts requires a license.

Q13: Does a Licensed Distributor who is distributing VGTs also need a Supplier’s license to supply replacement parts for the VGTs it distributes?

A13: No. A Licensed Distributor is defined as “[a]n Individual, partnership corporation or limited liability company licensed under the Act to buy, sell, lease or distribute Video Gaming Terminals or major components or parts of Video Gaming Terminals to or from Terminal Operators.”

Q14: Can an individual who owns a bar also be licensed as a Terminal Operator?

A14: Yes, as long as the bar in question is NOT a Licensed Video Gaming Location. In other words, the bar in question may not participate in video gaming, regardless of who would serve as its Terminal Operator.

Q15: What are the requirements for licensure under the Act?

A15: Many requirements for licensure are listed in Rule 420 of the Video Gaming Rules. In addition, the following are also requirements for licensure:

(a) Burden is upon applicant. The burden is upon each applicant to demonstrate suitability for licensure. The Board may issue or deny a license under this Act to any person under the same criteria set forth in Section 9 of the Riverboat Gambling Act (230 ILCS 10/9 (West 2008)). In addition, no person may receive a license under the Act if found by the Board to:

(1) Have been convicted of any violation of Article 28 of the Criminal Code of 1961; and/or
(2) Have a background (including a criminal record, reputation, habits, social or business associations, or prior activities) that poses a threat to the public interests of the State or to the security and integrity of video gaming; and/or

(3) Create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of video gaming; and/or

(4) Present questionable business practices and financial arrangements incidental to the conduct of video gaming activities.

(b) Background investigations. Each person seeking and possessing a license shall submit to a background investigation conducted by the Board with the assistance of the State Police or other law enforcement. This investigation shall include an applicant’s direct and indirect owners, an applicant’s officers and directors, and the video gaming manager for a license application.



**Welch
Gaming**

7206 N. Terra Vista Drive
Peoria, IL 61614-1352
P 309.690.6799/866.286.7961
F 309.692.4643
www.welchatm.com

(c) Disclosure of financial interests. Each person seeking and possessing a license under the Act shall disclose the identity of every person or entity having a direct ownership interest in the video gaming operation, and shall disclose each person or entity having an indirect interest of more than 1% in the video gaming operation for which the license is sought. If the disclosed entity is a trust, the application shall disclose the names and addresses of the beneficiaries; if a corporation, the names and addresses of all stockholders and directors; if a partnership, the names and addresses of all partners, both general and limited; if a limited liability company, the names and addresses of all members.

(d) License application fees:

Manufacturer	\$5,000
Distributor	\$5,000
Terminal operator	\$5,000
Supplier	\$2,500
Technician	\$100
Terminal handler	\$50



**Welch
Gaming**

7206 N. Terra Vista Drive
Peoria, IL 61614-1352
P 309.690.6799/866.286.7961
F 309.692.4643
www.welchatm.com