

SENATE BILL NO. 153

INTRODUCED BY W. GALT, B. LER, K. ZOLNIKOV, B. USHER, G. HERTZ, J. KARLEN, S. MORIGEAU

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS PERTAINING TO VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE PRIZES; INCREASING THE LIMIT ON VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE GAME LIMITS FROM \$2 TO \$4; INCREASING THE LIMIT ON AWARDING FREE GAMES OR CREDITS FROM \$800 TO \$1,199; AMENDING SECTION 23-5-608, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 23-5-608, MCA, is amended to read:

"23-5-608. Limitation on amount of money played and value of prizes -- payment of credits in cash -- ticket voucher expiration -- rules. (1) A video gambling machine may not allow more than ~~\$2~~ \$4 to be played on a game or award free games or credits in excess of ~~\$800~~ \$1,199 a game.

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

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

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2026.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Applicability. [This act] applies to video gambling machine games placed into operation on or after January 1, 2026.

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