

By: Representative Burnett

To: Gaming; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 708

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 75-76-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 2 REVISE THE GAMING CONTROL ACT DEFINITION OF "SPORTS POOL" AND  
 3 DEFINE "DIGITAL PLATFORM" AS A PERSON OR ENTITY THAT OPERATES A  
 4 SPORTS POOL OR RACE BOOK OVER THE INTERNET, INCLUDING ON WEBSITES  
 5 AND MOBILE DEVICES; TO AMEND SECTIONS 75-76-33, 75-76-55,  
 6 75-76-79, 75-76-89, 75-76-101 AND 75-76-175, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
 7 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF DIGITAL PLATFORMS; TO AMEND SECTION  
 8 75-76-177, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE GAMING LICENSE  
 9 FEES IN REGARDS TO PLATFORM GROSS REVENUES; TO AMEND SECTION  
 10 97-33-305, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE FANTASY CONTEST  
 11 ACT TO DELETE THE PROHIBITION ON OPERATORS OFFERING CONTESTS BASED  
 12 ON THE PERFORMANCE OF PARTICIPANTS IN COLLEGIATE SPORTS EVENTS;  
 13 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

15 **SECTION 1.** Section 75-76-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 16 amended as follows:

17 75-76-5. As used in this chapter, unless the context  
 18 requires otherwise:

19 (a) "Applicant" means any person who has applied for or  
 20 is about to apply for a state gaming license, registration or  
 21 finding of suitability under the provisions of this chapter or  
 22 approval of any act or transaction for which approval is required  
 23 or permitted under the provisions of this chapter.



24           (b) "Application" means a request for the issuance of a  
25 state gaming license, registration or finding of suitability under  
26 the provisions of this chapter or for approval of any act or  
27 transaction for which approval is required or permitted under the  
28 provisions of this chapter but does not include any supplemental  
29 forms or information that may be required with the application.

30           (c) "Associated equipment" means any equipment or  
31 mechanical, electromechanical or electronic contrivance, component  
32 or machine used remotely or directly in connection with gaming or  
33 with any game, race book or sports pool that would not otherwise  
34 be classified as a gaming device, including dice, playing cards,  
35 links which connect to progressive slot machines, equipment which  
36 affects the proper reporting of gross revenue, computerized  
37 systems of betting at a race book or sports pool, computerized  
38 systems for monitoring slot machines, and devices for weighing or  
39 counting money. Associated equipment does not include a personal  
40 computer, mobile phone or other device owned and used by an  
41 individual to place a sports betting wager via a digital platform.

42           (d) "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Mississippi  
43 Gaming Commission except when used in the term "Chairman of the  
44 State Tax Commission." "Chairman of the State Tax Commission" or  
45 "commissioner" means the Commissioner of Revenue of the Department  
46 of Revenue.

47           (e) "Commission" or "Mississippi Gaming Commission"  
48 means the Mississippi Gaming Commission.



49 (f) "Commission member" means a member of the  
50 Mississippi Gaming Commission.

51 (g) "Credit instrument" means a writing which evidences  
52 a gaming debt owed to a person who holds a license at the time the  
53 debt is created, and includes any writing taken in consolidation,  
54 redemption or payment of a prior credit instrument.

55 (h) "Enforcement division" means a particular division  
56 supervised by the executive director that provides enforcement  
57 functions.

58 (i) "Establishment" means any premises wherein or  
59 whereon any gaming is done.

60 (j) "Executive director" means the Executive Director  
61 of the Mississippi Gaming Commission.

62 (k) Except as otherwise provided by law, "game," or  
63 "gambling game" means any banking or percentage game played with  
64 cards, with dice or with any mechanical, electromechanical or  
65 electronic device or machine for money, property, checks, credit  
66 or any representative of value, including, without limiting, the  
67 generality of the foregoing, faro, monte, roulette, keno, fan-tan,  
68 twenty-one, blackjack, seven-and-a-half, big injun, klondike,  
69 craps, poker, chuck-a-luck (dai shu), wheel of fortune, chemin de  
70 fer, baccarat, pai gow, beat the banker, panguingui, slot machine,  
71 or any other game or device approved by the commission. However,  
72 "game" or "gambling game" shall not include bingo games or raffles



73 which are held pursuant to the provisions of Section 97-33-51, or  
74 the illegal gambling activities described in Section 97-33-8.

75 The commission shall not be required to recognize any game  
76 hereunder with respect to which the commission determines it does  
77 not have sufficient experience or expertise.

78 (l) "Gaming" or "gambling" means to deal, operate,  
79 carry on, conduct, maintain or expose for play any game as defined  
80 in this chapter.

81 (m) "Gaming device" means any mechanical,  
82 electromechanical or electronic contrivance, component or machine  
83 used in connection with gaming or any game which affects the  
84 result of a wager by determining win or loss. The term includes a  
85 system for processing information which can alter the normal  
86 criteria of random selection, which affects the operation of any  
87 game, or which determines the outcome of a game. The term does  
88 not include a system or device which affects a game solely by  
89 stopping its operation so that the outcome remains undetermined,  
90 and does not include any antique coin machine as defined in  
91 Section 27-27-12. Gaming device does not include a personal  
92 computer, mobile phone or other device owned and used by an  
93 individual to place a sports betting wager via a digital platform.

94 (n) "Gaming employee" means any person connected  
95 directly with the operation of a gaming establishment licensed to  
96 conduct any game, including:

97 (i) Boxmen;



- 98 (ii) Cashiers;
- 99 (iii) Change personnel;
- 100 (iv) Counting room personnel;
- 101 (v) Dealers;
- 102 (vi) Floormen;
- 103 (vii) Hosts or other persons empowered to extend  
104 credit or complimentary services;
- 105 (viii) Keno runners;
- 106 (ix) Keno writers;
- 107 (x) Machine mechanics;
- 108 (xi) Security personnel;
- 109 (xii) Shift or pit bosses;
- 110 (xiii) Shills;
- 111 (xiv) Supervisors or managers; and
- 112 (xv) Ticket writers.

113 The term "gaming employee" also includes employees of  
114 manufacturers or distributors of gaming equipment within this  
115 state whose duties are directly involved with the manufacture,  
116 repair or distribution of gaming equipment.

117 "Gaming employee" does not include bartenders, cocktail  
118 waitresses or other persons engaged in preparing or serving food  
119 or beverages unless acting in some other capacity.

120 (o) "Gaming license" means any license issued by the  
121 state which authorizes the person named therein to engage in  
122 gaming.



123           (p) "Gross revenue" means the total of all of the  
124 following, less the total of all cash paid out as losses to  
125 patrons and those amounts paid to purchase annuities to fund  
126 losses paid to patrons over several years by independent financial  
127 institutions:

128                   (i) Cash received as winnings;

129                   (ii) Cash received in payment for credit extended  
130 by a licensee to a patron for purposes of gaming; and

131                   (iii) Compensation received for conducting any  
132 game in which the licensee is not party to a wager.

133           For the purposes of this definition, cash or the value of  
134 noncash prizes awarded to patrons in a contest or tournament are  
135 not losses.

136           The term does not include:

137                   (i) Counterfeit money or tokens;

138                   (ii) Coins of other countries which are received  
139 in gaming devices;

140                   (iii) Cash taken in fraudulent acts perpetrated  
141 against a licensee for which the licensee is not reimbursed; or

142                   (iv) Cash received as entry fees for contests or  
143 tournaments in which the patrons compete for prizes.

144           (q) "Hearing examiner" means a member of the  
145 Mississippi Gaming Commission or other person authorized by the  
146 commission to conduct hearings.



147           (r) "Investigation division" means a particular  
148 division supervised by the executive director that provides  
149 investigative functions.

150           (s) "License" means a gaming license or a  
151 manufacturer's, seller's or distributor's license.

152           (t) "Licensee" means any person to whom a valid license  
153 has been issued.

154           (u) "License fees" means monies required by law to be  
155 paid to obtain or continue a gaming license or a manufacturer's,  
156 seller's or distributor's license.

157           (v) "Licensed gaming establishment" means any premises  
158 licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter wherein or  
159 whereon gaming is done.

160           (w) "Manufacturer's," "seller's" or "distributor's"  
161 license means a license issued pursuant to Section 75-76-79.

162           (x) "Navigable waters" shall have the meaning ascribed  
163 to such term under Section 27-109-1.

164           (y) "Operation" means the conduct of gaming.

165           (z) "Party" means the Mississippi Gaming Commission and  
166 any licensee or other person appearing of record in any proceeding  
167 before the commission; or the Mississippi Gaming Commission and  
168 any licensee or other person appearing of record in any proceeding  
169 for judicial review of any action, decision or order of the  
170 commission.



171 (aa) "Person" includes any association, corporation,  
172 firm, partnership, trust or other form of business association as  
173 well as a natural person.

174 (bb) "Premises" means land, together with all  
175 buildings, improvements and personal property located thereon, and  
176 includes all parts of any vessel or cruise vessel.

177 (cc) "Race book" means the business of accepting wagers  
178 upon the outcome of any event held at a track which uses the  
179 pari-mutuel system of wagering.

180 (dd) "Regulation" means a rule, standard, directive or  
181 statement of general applicability which effectuates law or policy  
182 or which describes the procedure or requirements for practicing  
183 before the commission. The term includes a proposed regulation  
184 and the amendment or repeal of a prior regulation but does not  
185 include:

186 (i) A statement concerning only the internal  
187 management of the commission and not affecting the rights or  
188 procedures available to any licensee or other person;

189 (ii) A declaratory ruling;

190 (iii) An interagency memorandum;

191 (iv) The commission's decision in a contested case  
192 or relating to an application for a license; or

193 (v) Any notice concerning the fees to be charged  
194 which are necessary for the administration of this chapter.





195 (ee) "Respondent" means any licensee or other person  
196 against whom a complaint has been filed with the commission.

197 (ff) "Slot machine" means any mechanical, electrical or  
198 other device, contrivance or machine which, upon insertion of a  
199 coin, token or similar object, or upon payment of any  
200 consideration, is available to play or operate, the play or  
201 operation of which, whether by reason of the skill of the operator  
202 or application of the element of chance, or both, may deliver or  
203 entitle the person playing or operating the machine to receive  
204 cash, premiums, merchandise, tokens or anything of value, whether  
205 the payoff is made automatically from the machine or in any other  
206 manner. The term does not include any antique coin machine as  
207 defined in Section 27-27-12.

208 (gg) "Sports pool" means the business of accepting  
209 wagers on collegiate, amateur or professional sporting events or  
210 athletic events, including e-sports, or any other event or  
211 competition authorized by the commission, by any system or method  
212 of wagering other than the system known as the "pari-mutuel method  
213 of wagering \* \* \*," including, but not limited to, digital  
214 platforms. The term includes, but is not limited to, single-game  
215 bets, teaser bets, parlays, over-under, moneyline, pools, exchange  
216 wagering, in-game wagering, in-play bets, proposition bets and  
217 straight bets. The term does not include fantasy contests as  
218 defined in Section 97-33-303.



219 (hh) "State Tax Commission" or "department" means the  
220 Department of Revenue of the State of Mississippi.

221 (ii) "Temporary work permit" means a work permit which  
222 is valid only for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days from its  
223 date of issue and which is not renewable.

224 (jj) "Vessel" or "cruise vessel" shall have the  
225 meanings ascribed to such terms under Section 27-109-1.

226 (kk) "Work permit" means any card, certificate or  
227 permit issued by the commission, whether denominated as a work  
228 permit, registration card or otherwise, authorizing the employment  
229 of the holder as a gaming employee. A document issued by any  
230 governmental authority for any employment other than gaming is not  
231 a valid work permit for the purposes of this chapter.

232 (ll) "School or training institution" means any school  
233 or training institution which is licensed by the commission to  
234 teach or train gaming employees pursuant to Section 75-76-34.

235 (mm) "Cheat" means to alter the selection of criteria  
236 that determine:

237 (i) The rules of a game; or

238 (ii) The amount or frequency of payment in a game.

239 (nn) "Promotional activity" means an activity or event  
240 conducted or held for the purpose of promoting or marketing the  
241 individual licensed gaming establishment that is engaging in the  
242 promotional activity. The term includes, but is not limited to, a  
243 game of any kind other than as defined in paragraph (k) of this



244 section, a tournament, a contest, a drawing, or a promotion of any  
245 kind.

246 (oo) "Digital platform" means the operation of a sports  
247 pool or race book over the Internet, including on websites and  
248 mobile devices, by the holder of a gaming license or by an  
249 operator on behalf of the holder of a gaming license.

250 Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, a  
251 digital platform may determine whether to accept or reject wagers,  
252 determine the results of wagers and payout winning wagers. The  
253 branding for each digital platform shall be determined by the  
254 operator.

255 (pp) "Operator" means an entity licensed as a  
256 manufacturer and distributor and authorized by the commission to  
257 operate a digital platform on behalf of the holder of a gaming  
258 license.

259 (qq) "Sports pool wagering account" means a financial  
260 record established by a gaming licensee or operator for an  
261 individual patron in which the patron may deposit and withdraw  
262 funds for sports pool wagering and other authorized purchases, and  
263 to which the gaming licensee or operator may credit winnings or  
264 other amounts due to that patron or authorized by that patron.  
265 Such account can be established and funded by the patron  
266 electronically through a digital platform.

267 **SECTION 2.** Section 75-76-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
268 amended as follows:



269           75-76-33. (1) The commission shall, from time to time,  
270 adopt, amend or repeal such regulations, consistent with the  
271 policy, objects and purposes of this chapter, as it may deem  
272 necessary or desirable in the public interest in carrying out the  
273 policy and provisions of this chapter. The commission shall  
274 comply with the Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law when  
275 adopting, amending or repealing any regulations authorized under  
276 this section or under any other provision of this chapter.

277           (2) These regulations shall, without limiting the general  
278 powers herein conferred, include the following:

279                   (a) Prescribing the method and form of application  
280 which any applicant for a license or for a manufacturer's,  
281 seller's or distributor's license must follow and complete before  
282 consideration of his application by the executive director or the  
283 commission.

284                   (b) Prescribing the information to be furnished by any  
285 applicant or licensee concerning his antecedents, habits,  
286 character, associates, criminal record, business activities and  
287 financial affairs, past or present.

288                   (c) Prescribing the information to be furnished by a  
289 licensee relating to his employees.

290                   (d) Requiring fingerprinting of an applicant or  
291 licensee, and gaming employees of a licensee, or other methods of  
292 identification and the forwarding of all fingerprints taken  
293 pursuant to regulation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



294 (e) Prescribing the manner and procedure of all  
295 hearings conducted by the commission or any hearing examiner of  
296 the commission, including special rules of evidence applicable  
297 thereto and notices thereof.

298 (f) Requiring any applicant to pay all or any part of  
299 the fees and costs of investigation of such applicant as may be  
300 determined by the commission under paragraph (g) of this  
301 subsection (2).

302 (g) Prescribing the amounts of investigative fees only  
303 as authorized by regulations of the commission under paragraph (f)  
304 of this subsection, and collecting those fees. The commission  
305 shall adopt regulations setting the amounts of those fees at  
306 levels that will provide the commission with sufficient revenue,  
307 when combined with any other monies as may be deposited into the  
308 Mississippi Gaming Commission Fund created in Section 75-76-325,  
309 to carry out the provisions of this chapter without any state  
310 general funds. In calculating the amount of such fees, the  
311 commission shall:

312 (i) Attempt to set the fees at levels that will  
313 create a balance in the Mississippi Gaming Commission Fund that  
314 does not exceed, at the end of any state fiscal year, two percent  
315 (2%) of the projected amount of funds that will provide the  
316 commission with such sufficient revenue; and



317 (ii) Demonstrate the reasonableness of the  
318 relationship between a fee and the actual costs of the  
319 investigative activity for which the fee is being prescribed.

320 (h) Prescribing the manner and method of collection and  
321 payment of fees and issuance of licenses.

322 (i) Prescribing under what conditions a licensee may be  
323 deemed subject to revocation or suspension of his license.

324 (j) Requiring any applicant or licensee to waive any  
325 privilege with respect to any testimony at any hearing or meeting  
326 of the commission, except any privilege afforded by the  
327 Constitution of the United States or this state.

328 (k) Defining and limiting the area, games and devices  
329 permitted, and the method of operation of such games and devices,  
330 for the purposes of this chapter.

331 (l) Prescribing under what conditions the nonpayment of  
332 a gambling debt by a licensee shall be deemed grounds for  
333 revocation or suspension of his license.

334 (m) Governing the use and approval of gambling devices  
335 and equipment.

336 (n) Prescribing the qualifications of, and the  
337 conditions under which, attorneys, accountants and others are  
338 permitted to practice before the commission.

339 (o) Restricting access to confidential information  
340 obtained under this chapter and ensuring that the confidentiality  
341 of such information is maintained and protected.



342 (p) Prescribing the manner and procedure by which the  
343 executive director on behalf of the commission shall notify a  
344 county or a municipality wherein an applicant for a license  
345 desires to locate.

346 (q) Prescribing the manner and procedure for an  
347 objection to be filed with the commission and the executive  
348 director by a county or municipality wherein an applicant for a  
349 license desires to locate.

350 (3) \* \* \* Except for wagers placed through approved digital  
351 platforms, each licensee shall be required to comply with the  
352 regulation that no wager may be placed by, or on behalf of, any  
353 individual or entity or group, not present on a licensed vessel or  
354 cruise vessel.

355 (4) Gaming licensees and operators shall accept wagers  
356 placed from sports pool wagering accounts through digital  
357 platforms provided that such wagers are initiated, received and  
358 otherwise made within Mississippi unless otherwise determined by  
359 the commission in accordance with applicable federal and state  
360 law. Consistent with the intent of the United States Congress and  
361 as articulated in the federal Unlawful Internet Gambling  
362 Enforcement Act of 2006, 31 USC Sections 5361-5367, the  
363 intermediate routing of electronic data related to a lawful  
364 intrastate wager authorized under that provision does not  
365 determine the location or locations in which the wager is  
366 initiated, received or otherwise made.



367 ( \* \* \*5) From and after July 1, 2016, the expenses of this  
368 agency shall be defrayed by appropriation from the State General  
369 Fund and all user charges and fees authorized under this section  
370 shall be deposited into the State General Fund as authorized by  
371 law.

372 ( \* \* \*6) From and after July 1, 2016, no state agency shall  
373 charge another state agency a fee, assessment, rent or other  
374 charge for services or resources received by authority of this  
375 section.

376 **SECTION 3.** Section 75-76-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
377 amended as follows:

378 75-76-55. (1) Except for an approved digital platform, or  
379 as otherwise provided in Section 75-76-34, it is unlawful for any  
380 person, either as owner, lessee or employee, whether for hire or  
381 not, either solely or in conjunction with others, without having  
382 first procured and thereafter maintaining in effect a state gaming  
383 license:

384 (a) To deal, operate, carry on, conduct, maintain or  
385 expose for play in the State of Mississippi any gambling game,  
386 including, without limitation, any gaming device, slot machine,  
387 race book or sports pool;

388 (b) To provide or maintain any information service the  
389 primary purpose of which is to aid the placing or making of wagers  
390 on events of any kind; or





391 (c) To receive, directly or indirectly, any  
392 compensation or reward or any percentage or share of the money or  
393 property played, for keeping, running or carrying on any gambling  
394 game, including, without limitation, any slot machine, gaming  
395 device, race book or sports pool.

396 (2) Except for an approved digital platform, or as otherwise  
397 provided in Section 75-76-34, it is unlawful for any person  
398 knowingly to permit any gambling game, including, without  
399 limitation, any slot machine, gaming device, race book or sports  
400 pool to be conducted, operated, dealt or carried on in any house  
401 or building or other premises owned by him, in whole or in part,  
402 by a person who is not licensed pursuant to this chapter or by his  
403 employee.

404 **SECTION 4.** Section 75-76-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
405 amended as follows:

406 75-76-79. (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in  
407 paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, it is unlawful for any  
408 person, either as owner, lessee or employee, whether for hire or  
409 not, to operate, carry on, conduct or maintain any form of  
410 manufacture, selling or distribution of any gaming device for use  
411 or play in Mississippi or for distribution outside of Mississippi  
412 without first procuring and maintaining all required federal and  
413 state licenses.

414 (b) An operator shall be licensed under this section as  
415 a manufacturer and a distributor.



416 ( \* \* \*c) A lessor who specifically acquires equipment  
417 for a capital lease is not required to be licensed under this  
418 section.

419 ( \* \* \*d) The holder of a state gaming license or the  
420 holding company of a corporate licensee may, within two (2) years  
421 after cessation of business or upon specific approval by the  
422 executive director, dispose of by sale in a manner approved by the  
423 executive director, any or all of its gaming devices, including  
424 slot machines, without a distributor's license. In cases of  
425 bankruptcy of a state gaming licensee or operator or foreclosure  
426 of a lien by a bank or other person holding a security interest  
427 for which gaming devices are security, in whole or in part, for  
428 the lien, the executive director may authorize the disposition of  
429 the gaming devices without requiring a distributor's license.

430 ( \* \* \*e) Any person whom the commission determines is  
431 a suitable person to receive a license under the provisions of  
432 this section may be issued a manufacturer's or distributor's  
433 license. The burden of proving his qualification to receive or  
434 hold a license under this section is at all times on the applicant  
435 or licensee.

436 ( \* \* \*f) Every person who must be licensed pursuant to  
437 this section is subject to the provisions of Sections 75-76-199  
438 through 75-76-265, unless exempted from those provisions by the  
439 commission.



440 ( \* \* \*g) The commission may exempt, for any purpose, a  
441 manufacturer, seller or distributor from the provisions of  
442 Sections 75-76-199 through 75-76-265, if the commission determines  
443 that the exemption is consistent with the purposes of this  
444 chapter.

445 ( \* \* \*h) As used in this section, "holding company"  
446 has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 75-76-199.

447 (2) If the commission determines that a manufacturer or  
448 distributor is unsuitable to receive or hold a license:

449 (a) No new gaming device or associated equipment  
450 manufactured by the manufacturer or distributed by the distributor  
451 may be approved;

452 (b) Any previously approved device or associated  
453 equipment manufactured by the manufacturer or distributed by the  
454 distributor is subject to revocation of approval if the reasons  
455 for the denial of the license also apply to that device or  
456 associated equipment;

457 (c) No new device or associated equipment manufactured  
458 by the manufacturer or distributed by the distributor may be sold,  
459 transferred or offered for use or play in Mississippi; and

460 (d) Any association or agreement between the  
461 manufacturer or distributor and a licensee must be terminated,  
462 unless otherwise provided by the commission. An agreement between  
463 such a manufacturer or distributor of gaming devices or associated  
464 equipment and a licensee shall be deemed to include a provision



465 for its termination without liability on the part of the licensee  
466 upon a finding by the commission that the manufacturer is  
467 unsuitable to be associated with a gaming enterprise. Failure to  
468 include that condition in the agreement is not a defense in any  
469 action brought pursuant to this section to terminate the  
470 agreement.

471 (3) Failure of a licensee to terminate any association or  
472 agreement with a manufacturer or distributor of gaming devices or  
473 associated equipment after receiving notice of a determination of  
474 unsuitability, the denial of a license or failure to file a timely  
475 application for a license, is an unsuitable method of operation.

476 (4) There is hereby imposed and levied on each applicant for  
477 a manufacturer's, seller's or distributor's license under this  
478 section an annual license fee in the following amount:

479 (a) For the issuance or continuation of a  
480 manufacturer's license, One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

481 (b) For the issuance or continuation of a seller's or  
482 distributor's license, Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

483 This fee is to be paid by the applicant to the \* \* \*  
484 Department of Revenue on or before the filing of the application  
485 for a manufacturer's, seller's or distributor's license by the  
486 applicant. Upon such payment the \* \* \* Commissioner of Revenue  
487 shall certify to the executive director that such fee has been  
488 paid by the applicant.



489           Except for those amounts that a person issued a  
490 manufacturer's license under this section may charge for goods  
491 supplied or services rendered, the person holding the  
492 manufacturer's license may not be directly reimbursed by a holder  
493 of a gaming license for the cost of any fee paid by the person for  
494 the issuance or continuation of such a license, whether imposed  
495 under this section or any other provision of this chapter.

496           (5) A manufacturer or distributor of associated equipment  
497 who sells, transfers or offers the associated equipment for use or  
498 play in Mississippi may be required by the executive director to  
499 file an application for a finding of suitability to be a  
500 manufacturer or distributor of associated equipment.

501           Any person who directly or indirectly involves himself in the  
502 sale, transfer or offering for use or play in Mississippi of  
503 associated equipment who is not otherwise required to be licensed  
504 as a manufacturer or distributor may be required by the executive  
505 director to file an application for a finding of suitability to be  
506 a manufacturer or distributor of associated equipment.

507           If an application for a finding of suitability is not  
508 submitted within thirty (30) days after demand by the executive  
509 director, he may pursue any remedy or combination of remedies  
510 provided in this chapter.

511           (6) The executive director and his employees may inspect  
512 every gaming device which is manufactured, sold or distributed:



513 (a) For use in this state, before the gaming device is  
514 put into play.

515 (b) In this state for use outside this state, before  
516 the gaming device is shipped out of this state.

517 The executive director may inspect every gaming device which  
518 is offered for play within this state by a licensee.

519 The executive director may inspect all associated equipment  
520 which is manufactured, sold or distributed for use in this state  
521 before the equipment is installed or used by a gaming licensee.

522 In addition to all other fees and charges imposed by this  
523 chapter, the executive director may determine an inspection fee  
524 with regard to each manufacturer, seller or distributor which must  
525 not exceed the actual cost of inspection and investigation. Upon  
526 such determination, the executive director shall certify to  
527 the \* \* \* Commissioner of Revenue the amount of the inspection fee  
528 and the name and address of the applicant. Upon such  
529 certification the \* \* \* Department of Revenue shall proceed to  
530 assess and collect such inspection fee from the applicant.

531 **SECTION 5.** Section 75-76-89, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
532 amended as follows:

533 75-76-89. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection  
534 ( \* \* \* 2) of this section, all licenses issued to the same person,  
535 including a wholly owned subsidiary of that person, for the  
536 operation of any game, including a sports pool or race book, which  
537 authorize gaming at the same establishment must be merged into a



538 single gaming license. A gaming license may not be issued to any  
539 person if the issuance would result in more than one (1) licensed  
540 operation at a single establishment, whether or not the profits or  
541 revenue from gaming are shared between the licensed operations.

542 (2) A person who has been issued a gaming license or an  
543 operator may establish a sports pool or race book on the premises  
544 of the establishment \* \* \* or operate a digital platform through  
545 which he or she conducts a gaming operation only after obtaining  
546 permission from the executive director.

547 **SECTION 6.** Section 75-76-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
548 amended as follows:

549 75-76-101. (1) All gaming must be conducted with chips,  
550 tokens or other instrumentalities approved by the executive  
551 director or with the legal tender of the United States.

552 (2) Except for a sports pool conducted through an approved  
553 digital platform, no licensee shall permit participation by a  
554 person in a game conducted in the licensed gaming establishment if  
555 such person is not physically present in the licensed gaming  
556 establishment during the period of time when such game is being  
557 conducted, and all games and the participation of patrons therein  
558 shall be entirely located and conducted on the licensed premises.

559 **SECTION 7.** Section 75-76-175, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
560 amended as follows:

561 75-76-175. (1) A credit instrument accepted on or after  
562 June 29, 1991, is valid and may be enforced by legal process.



563 (2) A licensee or a person acting on the licensee's behalf  
564 may accept an incomplete credit instrument which:

565 (a) Is signed by a patron; and

566 (b) States the amount of the debt in figures \* \* \*; and  
567 may complete the instrument as is necessary for the instrument to  
568 be presented for payment.

569 (3) A licensee or person acting on behalf of a licensee:

570 (a) May accept a credit instrument that is dated later  
571 than the date of its execution if that later date is furnished at  
572 the time of the execution of the credit instrument by the patron.

573 (b) May not accept a credit instrument which is  
574 incomplete, except as authorized by subsection (2) of this  
575 section.

576 (c) May accept a credit instrument that is payable to  
577 an affiliated company or may complete a credit instrument in the  
578 name of an affiliated company as payee if the credit instrument  
579 otherwise complies with this subsection and the records of the  
580 affiliated company pertaining to the credit instrument are made  
581 available to the executive director upon request.

582 (4) This section does not prohibit the establishment of an  
583 account:

584 (a) By a deposit of cash, recognized traveler's check,  
585 or any other instruments which is equivalent to cash; or

586 (b) Electronically through an approved digital  
587 platform.





588 (5) Any person who violates the provisions of this section  
589 is subject only to the penalties provided in Sections 75-76-103  
590 through 75-76-119, inclusive.

591 (6) The commission may adopt regulations prescribing the  
592 conditions under which a credit instrument may be redeemed or  
593 presented to a bank for collection or payment.

594 **SECTION 8.** Section 75-76-177, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
595 amended as follows:

596 75-76-177. (1) From and after August 1, 1990, there is  
597 hereby imposed and levied on each gaming licensee a license fee  
598 based upon all the gross revenue of the licensee as follows:

599 (a) Four percent (4%) of all the gross revenue of the  
600 licensee which does not exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)  
601 per calendar month;

602 (b) Six percent (6%) of all the gross revenue of the  
603 licensee which exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per  
604 calendar month and does not exceed One Hundred Thirty-four  
605 Thousand Dollars (\$134,000.00) per calendar month; and

606 (c) Eight percent (8%) of all the gross revenue of the  
607 licensee or operator which exceeds One Hundred Thirty-four  
608 Thousand Dollars (\$134,000.00) per calendar month.

609 (2) All revenue received from any game or gaming device  
610 which is leased for operation on the premises of the  
611 licensee-owner to a person other than the owner thereof or which  
612 is located in an area or space on such premises which is leased by



613 the licensee-owner to any such person, must be attributed to the  
614 owner for the purposes of this section and be counted as part of  
615 the gross revenue of the owner. The lessee is liable to the owner  
616 for his proportionate share of such license fees.

617 (3) If the amount of license fees required to be reported  
618 and paid pursuant to this section is later determined to be  
619 greater or less than the amount actually reported and paid by the  
620 licensee, the \* \* \* Commissioner of Revenue shall:

621 (a) Assess and collect the additional license fees  
622 determined to be due, with interest thereon until paid; or

623 (b) Refund any overpayment, with interest thereon, to  
624 the licensee.

625 Interest must be computed, until paid, at the rate of one  
626 percent (1%) per month from the first day of the first month  
627 following either the due date of the additional license fees or  
628 the date of overpayment.

629 (4) Failure to pay the fees provided for in this section  
630 when they are due for continuation of a license shall be deemed a  
631 surrender of the license.

632 **SECTION 9.** Section 97-33-305, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
633 amended as follows:

634 97-33-305. (1) Fantasy contests are legal in this state. A  
635 fantasy contest operator must comply with the provisions of this  
636 section if the operator's total player roster for all fantasy



637 contests consists of one hundred (100) or more members of the  
638 general public.

639 (2) A fantasy contest operator must implement commercially  
640 reasonable procedures for fantasy contests with an entry fee to:

641 (a) Prevent employees of the operator, and relatives  
642 living in the same household with an employee of an operator, from  
643 competing in fantasy contests offered to the public by an operator  
644 in which the operator offers a cash prize;

645 (b) Prevent sharing with third parties of confidential  
646 information that could affect fantasy contest play until the  
647 information is made publicly available;

648 (c) Prevent the operator from participating in a  
649 fantasy contest offered by the operator;

650 (d) Verify that a fantasy contest player is eighteen  
651 (18) years of age or older except as required in Section  
652 97-33-307(5);

653 (e) Ensure that individuals who participate or  
654 officiate in a sporting event or who own, manage or coach a team  
655 or player who participates in a sporting event will not knowingly  
656 be allowed to enter a fantasy contest that is determined, in whole  
657 or in part, on accumulated statistical results that include a  
658 sporting event in which the individual could be involved as an  
659 athlete, official, owner, manager or coach;

660 (f) Allow individuals to restrict themselves from  
661 entering a fantasy contest upon request and provide reasonable



662 steps to prevent the person from entering fantasy contests offered  
663 by the operator;

664 (g) Disclose the number of entries that a player may  
665 submit to each fantasy contest and provide reasonable steps to  
666 prevent players from submitting more than the allowable number;

667 (h) Restrict the number of entries submitted by a  
668 single player for any contest as follows:

669 (i) An operator shall not allow a player to submit  
670 more than one (1) entry in a contest involving twelve (12) or  
671 fewer players.

672 (ii) If the number of players in a contest is more  
673 than twelve (12) but fewer than thirty-seven (37), an operator  
674 shall not allow a player to submit more than two (2) entries.

675 (iii) If the number of players in a contest is at  
676 least thirty-seven (37) but no more than one hundred (100), an  
677 operator shall not allow a player to submit more than three (3)  
678 entries.

679 (iv) In any contest involving more than one  
680 hundred (100) players, an operator shall not allow a player to  
681 submit more than the lesser of:

- 682 1. Three percent (3%) of all entries; or  
683 2. One hundred fifty (150) entries.

684 (v) For all advertised fantasy contests, the  
685 operator must prominently include information about the maximum  
686 number of entries that may be submitted for that contest.



687 (vi) An operator may establish fantasy contests in  
688 which there is no restriction on the number of entries, if those  
689 contests constitute less than two percent (2%) of the total number  
690 of contests it offers, and if the operator clearly discloses:

691 1. That there are no limits on the number of  
692 entries by each player in the contest; and

693 2. That the cost of participating in such a  
694 contest is Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more per entry;

695 (i) Offer introductory procedures for players that are  
696 prominently displayed on the main page of the operator's platform  
697 to explain contest play and how to identify a highly experienced  
698 player;

699 (j) Identify all highly experienced players in every  
700 fantasy contest by a symbol attached to the players' usernames, or  
701 by other easily visible means, on all platforms supported by the  
702 operator; and

703 (k) Segregate fantasy contest player funds from  
704 operational funds or maintain a reserve in the form of cash, cash  
705 equivalents, payment processor reserves and receivables, an  
706 irrevocable letter of credit, a bond, or a combination thereof, in  
707 the amount of the total account balances of the fantasy contest  
708 players for the benefit and protection of the funds held in the  
709 accounts.



710 (3) An operator shall not offer contests based on the  
711 performance of participants in \* \* \* high school or youth sports  
712 events.

713 (4) A fantasy contest operator offering fantasy contests  
714 with an entry fee in this state shall comply with audit procedures  
715 adopted by the commission to ensure compliance with this section.

716 (5) (a) Advertisements for contests and prizes offered by  
717 an operator shall not target prohibited participants, minors, or  
718 self-excluded persons.

719 (b) Representations or implications about average  
720 winnings from contests shall not be unfair or misleading. Such  
721 representations shall include, at a minimum:

722 (i) The median and mean net winnings of all  
723 players participating in contests offered by the operator; and

724 (ii) The percentage of winnings awarded by the  
725 operator to highly experienced players participating in contests  
726 offered by the operator within the preceding calendar year.

727 (6) Operators shall prohibit the use of third-party scripts  
728 or scripting programs for any contest and ensure that measures are  
729 in place to deter, detect and, to the extent reasonably possible,  
730 prevent cheating, including collusion, and the use of cheating  
731 devices, including use of software programs that submit entry fees  
732 or adjust the athletes selected by a player.



733           (7) The values of all prizes and awards offered to winning  
734 players must be established and made known to the players in  
735 advance of the contest.

736           **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
737 and after July 1, 2023.

