

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 954

Short Title: Video Lottery Terminals. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Warren, Moffitt, Hunter, and Wray (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Commerce, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of  
the House

May 12, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE REGULATION OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. Chapter 18C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
5 Article to read:

6 "Article 9.  
7 "Video Lottery Entertainment.  
8 "Part 1. General Provisions.

9 "**§ 18C-200. Definitions.**

10 In addition to the definitions in Article 1 of this Chapter, the following definitions apply in  
11 this Article:

- 12 (1) Central monitoring system. – The system that maintains on a real-time basis  
13 the financial, integrity, and security controls on video lottery terminals and  
14 associated equipment and provides administrative services for its operation.  
15 (2) Independent testing laboratory. – An independent, nationally recognized  
16 testing laboratory approved by the Commission for use in testing whether a  
17 video lottery game or video lottery terminal complies with the standards set  
18 forth in this Article.  
19 (3) Manufacturer. – An individual, partnership, corporation, trust, association,  
20 joint venture, limited liability company, or other business entity that  
21 manufactures, assembles, services, or produces video lottery terminals or  
22 associated equipment in this State.  
23 (4) Off-site ABC permit. – An off-premises malt beverage permit or off-premises  
24 unfortified or fortified wine permit issued by the North Carolina Alcoholic  
25 Beverage Control Commission under Chapter 18B of the General Statutes.  
26 (5) On-site ABC permit. – An on-premises malt beverage permit, on-premises  
27 unfortified or fortified wine permit, or mixed beverages permit issued by the  
28 North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission under Chapter 18B  
29 of the General Statutes.  
30 (6) Operator. – An individual, partnership, corporation, trust, association, joint  
31 venture, limited liability company, or other business entity that owns or  
32 services a video lottery terminal for which a video lottery terminal permit has  
33 been issued by the Commission and that places video lottery terminals or  
34 associated equipment for public use in the State of North Carolina.



- 1           (7)    Video lottery games. – Electronically simulated games of chance approved by  
2           the Commission that are displayed and played on permitted video lottery  
3           terminals.
- 4           (8)    Video lottery retailer. – A lottery game retailer selling shares of video lottery  
5           games under contract with the Commission in accordance with Article 5 of  
6           this Chapter, as supplemented by this Article.
- 7           (9)    Video lottery terminal. – A device operated under the authority of the  
8           Commission that shall be exempt under G.S. 14-306.1A and is any electronic  
9           computerized video game machine that, upon the insertion of a lottery share,  
10           is available to play a video lottery game authorized by the Commission, and  
11           which uses a video display and microprocessors in which, by chance, the  
12           player may receive free games or credits that can be redeemed for cash. The  
13           term does not include a machine that directly dispenses coins, cash, or tokens.
- 14          (10)   Video lottery terminal permit. – A permanently affixed tag or other device  
15           issued to a licensed operator for each video lottery terminal approved by and  
16           registered with the Commission.

17 **§§ 18C-201 through 18C-202.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

18 **§ 18C-203. Video lottery; allocation of revenues.**

19       (a)    The Commission shall determine that video lottery terminals are a type of lottery  
20       game in this State. Play of video lottery terminals shall be deemed a share for purposes of this  
21       Chapter. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the provisions of this Chapter shall apply  
22       to conduct of video lottery terminals as lottery games.

23       (b)    Notwithstanding G.S. 150B-1, the Commission shall adopt rules in accordance with  
24       Article 2 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes to determine play of video lottery terminals  
25       and the allocation of net income from video lottery terminals and the procedures for the  
26       monitoring, collection, and distribution of income from the video lottery terminals under this  
27       Article, in conformity with all of the following:

- 28           (1)    No less than thirty-five percent (35%) of the total annual revenues shall be  
29           transferred to the State.
- 30           (2)    No more than eight percent (8%) of the total annual revenues shall be allocated  
31           for administrative expenses of the Commission, which shall include all costs  
32           associated with the central monitoring system and the costs of the Department  
33           of Public Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, associated with  
34           enforcement of this Article.
- 35           (3)    Video lottery retailers shall be paid in accordance with G.S. 18C-142.
- 36           (4)    Video lottery terminals shall be connected to a central monitoring system at  
37           all times during play and as otherwise determined by the Commission.
- 38           (5)    All video lottery terminals shall be placed with a lottery game retailer who  
39           holds an active off-site ABC permit or an active on-site ABC permit. The  
40           Commission may place up to seven video lottery terminals with a lottery game  
41           retailer who holds an off-site ABC permit, and up to five video lottery  
42           terminals with a lottery game retailer who holds an on-site ABC permit.
- 43           (6)    In contracting with video lottery retailers, the Commission shall require that  
44           there shall be no video lottery terminals placed within 1,000 feet of a church,  
45           public school, or any nonpublic school as defined by Part 1 or 2 of Article 39  
46           of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.
- 47           (7)    Shares for play of video lottery terminals shall be a credit ticket voucher that  
48           is redeemable for cash or may be inserted into video lottery terminals for  
49           redemption or to generate credits for the play of lottery games.



1           c.     A person who, either individually or through employees, demonstrates  
2                 business ability and experience to establish, operate, and maintain the  
3                 business for the type of license for which the application is made.

4           d.     A person who demonstrates adequate financing for the business  
5                 proposed under the type of license for which the application is made.

6           (c)     In addition to subsection (b) of this section, the Commission may not approve an  
7                 application for an operator's license if the applicant has not been a resident of North Carolina for  
8                 at least three years immediately preceding the application.

9           (d)     The applicant must furnish all information, documents, certifications, consents,  
10                waivers, individual history forms, and other materials required or requested by the Commission  
11                for purposes of determining qualification for that type of license. If the applicant is a public  
12                company, the applicant must file with the Commission a copy of any disclosure statement  
13                involving ownership of the public company required to be filed with the United States Securities  
14                and Exchange Commission.

15           (e)     The applicant must submit to a background investigation, including each partner,  
16                director, officer, and all stockholders of five percent (5%) or more of any business entity, except  
17                for institutional investors. The application shall be accompanied by the fee to cover the cost of  
18                the criminal and financial record check conducted by the Commission.

19           (f)     The burden of proof for establishing qualification under this section shall be on the  
20                applicant. The Commission may, for cause, revoke a license at any time.

21           (g)     No licensee or applicant to be a licensee shall pay, give, or make any economic  
22                opportunity, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, favor, hospitality, or service, including food  
23                and beverages, to the Director, to any member or employee of the Commission, or to any member  
24                of the immediate family residing in the same household as one of these individuals.

25           (h)     Any entity that acts as a supplier for the Commission in building, operating,  
26                maintaining, or contracting to build, operate, or maintain a central monitoring system shall not  
27                be eligible to obtain a license as a manufacturer or operator, or to contract as a video lottery  
28                retailer.

29           "**§§ 18C-215 through 18C-219.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

30           "**§ 18C-220. Fees.**

31           (a)     The Commission may charge a license application and renewal fee not to exceed two  
32                hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) and the cost of the criminal and financial record check.

33           (b)     All licenses issued by the Commission are renewable annually unless sooner  
34                cancelled or terminated. No license issued by the Commission is transferable or assignable.

35           "**§ 18C-221.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

36           "**§ 18C-222. Multiple types of licenses prohibited.**

37           A video lottery terminal manufacturer may not be licensed as a video lottery terminal operator  
38                or be a video lottery retailer. A video lottery terminal operator may not be licensed as a video  
39                lottery terminal manufacturer or be a video lottery retailer.

40           "**§ 18C-223.** Reserved for future codification purposes.

41           "**§ 18C-224. General duties of licensees and video lottery retailers.**

42           All video lottery license holders and video lottery retailers under this Article shall do all of  
43                the following:

44           (1)     Promptly report to the Commission any factors or circumstances related to  
45                video lottery games operated under this Article that constitute a violation of  
46                State or federal law.

47           (2)     Conduct all video lottery activities and functions in a manner that does not  
48                pose a threat to the public health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of this State  
49                and that does not adversely affect the security and integrity of the lottery or  
50                harm video lottery games.

1           (3)   Hold the Commission and the State of North Carolina harmless from and  
2           defend and pay for the defense of any and all claims that may be asserted  
3           against a license holder, this State, or the Commission and its employees  
4           arising from the license holder's participation in or operation of video lottery  
5           games.

6           (4)   Assist the Commission in maximizing video lottery games revenue to the  
7           State.

8           (5)   Maintain all records required by the Commission.

9           (6)   Keep current in all payments and obligations to the Commission.

10   "§§ 18C-225 through 18C-229. Reserved for future codification purposes.

11                   "Part 3. Video Lottery Terminals.

12   "§ 18C-330. Possession; central monitoring system.

13           (a)   Every video lottery terminal shall have a video lottery terminal permit prior to play  
14           in this State and shall be placed with a video lottery retailer for play.

15           (b)   Operators shall file with the Commission the location of each permitted video lottery  
16           terminal and the name of the video lottery retailer where the video lottery terminals are located.

17           (c)   The Commission shall contract for a central monitoring system from a supplier of  
18           central monitoring systems who are not licensed manufacturers or operators in this State or video  
19           lottery retailers in this State. The Commission shall use commercially reasonable efforts to adopt  
20           and implement the central monitoring system. When the central monitoring system is adopted,  
21           the following shall apply:

22           (1)   The central monitoring system shall be linked by a communications network  
23           through which all video lottery terminals shall connect to a single point of  
24           commerce and must not use a slot machine interface board or "SMIB" for the  
25           purpose of accounting and reporting to the State. In no event shall the video  
26           lottery terminal approved by the Commission limit participation to only one  
27           manufacturer or one type of video lottery terminal.

28           (2)   All video lottery terminals shall be linked by a communications network to  
29           the central monitoring system for purposes of monitoring and reading device  
30           activities as provided for in this section. The Commission shall routinely  
31           assess and inspect the operation of the central monitoring system and shall  
32           notify licensees and video lottery retailers of any deficiencies.

33           (3)   The video lottery terminal must adhere to the standards adopted by the  
34           Commission with regard to the hardware and software requirements of the  
35           central monitoring system.

36           (4)   The central monitoring system shall be designed and operated to allow the  
37           monitoring and reading of all video lottery terminals for compliance play and  
38           revenues to the State. The Commission may contract for the administration of  
39           the central monitoring system but shall be responsible for oversight of that  
40           administration.

41           (5)   The central monitoring system shall not provide for the monitoring or reading  
42           of personal or financial information concerning patrons of video lottery  
43           terminals.

44           (d)   No video lottery terminal shall be issued a permit unless the game software is certified  
45           by an independent testing laboratory. The game software, and any other component required by  
46           the Commission, for all video lottery terminals must be submitted by the licensed manufacturer  
47           to an independent testing laboratory to test for compliance with Commission rules and  
48           regulations.

49   "§ 18C-331. Reserved for future codification purposes.

50   "§ 18C-332. Play and posting of odds.

1       (a) Notwithstanding G.S. 18C-131(d), it is unlawful for a person to sell a share for play  
2 of video lottery terminals under the age of 21 years. No person under the age of 21 years shall  
3 purchase a share for play of a video lottery terminal. A person who violates this subsection shall  
4 be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

5       (b) Video lottery terminals may not allow more than the amount established by the  
6 Commission to be played on a single wager. The odds of winning each video lottery game shall  
7 be posted on or near each video lottery terminal. The manner in which the odds are calculated  
8 and how the odds are posted shall be established by the Commission. For purposes of this section,  
9 "wager" shall mean a sum of money or thing of value risked on an uncertain occurrence.

10 "§ 18C-333. Reserved for future codification purposes.

11 "§ 18C-334. Reserved for future codification purposes.

12 "§ 18C-335. Reserved for future codification purposes.

13 "§ 18C-336. **Transportation between licensed video lottery retailer's establishments in the**  
14 **State.**

15 Any person transporting a video lottery terminal from one video lottery retailer's  
16 establishment to another in the State, other than for servicing or repair, shall notify the  
17 Commission, in the manner and form established by the Commission, in writing prior to the  
18 transportation of the video lottery terminal.

19 "§§ 18C-337 through 18C-339. Reserved for future codification purposes.

20 "Part 4. Enforcement.

21 "§ 18C-400. **Enforcement.**

22 The Commission shall have sole administrative enforcement authority of this Article.

23 "§ 18C-401. Reserved for future codification purposes.

24 "§ 18C-402. **Inspection of premises, records, activities.**

25 At any time during normal business hours, the Commission or the Department of Public  
26 Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, may inspect an establishment of a video lottery  
27 retailer, licensed operator, or a licensed manufacturer. The inspection may include the  
28 examination of records, equipment, and proceeds related to the operation of video lottery games.

29 "§ 18C-403. Reserved for future codification purposes.

30 "§ 18C-404. **Criminal offenses.**

31       (a) Any person who tampers with a video lottery terminal with intent to interfere with the  
32 proper operation of the video lottery terminal is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor for the first  
33 offense and is guilty of a Class H felony for a second offense and a Class G felony for a third or  
34 subsequent offense.

35       (b) Any person who, with intent to manipulate the outcome, payoff, or operation of a  
36 video lottery terminal, manipulates the outcome, payoff, or operation of a video lottery terminal  
37 by physical tampering or any other means is guilty of a Class G felony for the first offense and a  
38 Class F felony for any subsequent offense.

39       (c) A video lottery retailer or operator who falsely reports or fails to report the amount  
40 due required by the Commission is guilty of a Class G felony and is subject to termination by the  
41 Commission.

42       (d) Any video lottery retailer or operator who pays a prize to any person in the amount  
43 less than the specified prize won is guilty of a Class G felony and is subject to termination by the  
44 Commission."

45 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 18C-103(4) reads as rewritten:

46 "(4) "Game" or "lottery game" means any procedure or amusement authorized by  
47 the Commission where prizes are distributed among persons who have paid,  
48 or unconditionally agreed to pay, for tickets or shares that provide the  
49 opportunity to win those prizes and does not utilize a video gaming machine  
50 as defined in G.S. 14-306.1(c)-prizes."

51 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 18C-120(b) reads as rewritten:

1       "(b) The Director shall have the following powers and duties, under the supervision of the  
2 Commission:

3       ...

4       (7) To confer with the Commission on the operation and administration of ~~the~~  
5 ~~Lottery~~ this Chapter and make available for inspection by the Commission all  
6 books, records, files, documents, and other information ~~of the~~  
7 ~~Lottery~~ maintained under this Chapter.

8       ...

9       (11) To engage an independent firm experienced in security procedures, including  
10 computer security and systems security, to conduct a comprehensive study  
11 and evaluation of all aspects of security in the operation of the video lottery  
12 terminals. At a minimum, such a security assessment is to include a review of  
13 network vulnerability, application vulnerability, application code review,  
14 wireless security, security policy and processes, security and privacy program  
15 management, technology infrastructure and security controls, security  
16 organization and governance, and operational effectiveness."

17       **SECTION 4.** Article 2 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
18 a new section to read:

19       "§ 105-102.7. Video lottery terminals privilege tax.

20       A privilege tax is imposed on licensed manufacturers and operators, and video lottery  
21 retailers, under Article 9 of Chapter 18C of the General Statutes for the privilege of engaging in  
22 the activity authorized by the license or contract. The tax is due by July 1 of each year. The  
23 amount of the tax is as follows:

24       (1) Manufacturers. – Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

25       (2) Operators. – Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) plus one hundred fifty  
26 dollars (\$150.00) per video lottery terminal licensed to that operator.

27       (3) Video lottery retailers. – One thousand dollars (\$1,000) per retail location plus  
28 one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per video lottery terminal in each retail  
29 location."

30       **SECTION 5.** G.S. 14-306.1A is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

31       "(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to make illegal any activity conducted  
32 pursuant to Article 9 of Chapter 18C of the General Statutes."

33       **SECTION 6.** G.S. 14-306.4 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

34       "(d1) Nothing in this section shall be construed to make illegal any activity conducted  
35 pursuant to Article 9 of Chapter 18C of the General Statutes."

36       **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2021.