



# Idaho State Police

Service Since 1939



Colonel Kedrick R. Wills  
Director

Brad Little  
Governor

December 20, 2021

Dear ABC Licensees:

It has come to our attention numerous companies have been advertising and placing unauthorized gambling devices in licensed establishments in the State of Idaho. This letter is a courtesy to establishment owners and licensees. These companies may or may not be accurately representing the legality of these machines when promoting them. The appearance, style of play, and methods of determining winners of these gambling devices puts them firmly in the realm of illegal slot machines. As described, they are not considered legal in the State of Idaho and should not be operated in licensed establishments.

Idaho's prohibition on gambling, specifically slot machines, is clearly stated in the Idaho Constitution in Article III, Section 20, "**Gambling is contrary to public policy and is strictly prohibited ...**" and follows with "**No activities permitted by subsection (1) shall employ any form of casino gambling including, but not limited to, blackjack, craps, roulette, poker, bacarrat, keno and slot machines, or employ any electronic or electromechanical imitation or simulation of any form of casino gambling.**"

Idaho Code 18-3801 defines gambling, in part, as "**risking any money, credit, deposit or other thing of value for gain contingent in whole or in part upon lot, chance, the operation of a gambling device ...**". Additionally, Idaho Code 23-928(2) states, "**It shall be unlawful for any licensee granted a license under the authority of title 23, Idaho Code, to permit, conduct, play, carry on, open or cause to be opened any gaming in or upon the licensed premises ...**".

Each licensee must weigh their decisions regarding what happens in their establishments carefully and consider consequences those decisions may have on their various licenses. Idaho law listed above outline some of these consequences including, but not limited to, alcohol beverage license suspension and/or revocation and possible criminal charges.

The Idaho State Police, Alcohol Beverage Control Division, is charged with enforcing statutes regarding licensed establishments and can be reached at 208.884.7060.

Sincerely,

Captain Bradley Doty  
Idaho State Police  
Alcohol Beverage Control

700 S. Stratford Drive • Meridian, Idaho 83642-6202