

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS PERTAINING TO VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE
5 PRIZES; INCREASING THE LIMIT ON VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE GAME LIMITS FROM \$2 TO \$3;
6 INCREASING THE LIMIT ON AWARDING FREE GAMES OR CREDITS FROM \$800 TO \$1,199; REVISING
7 THE CREDIT RATIO FOR CERTAIN VIDEO GAMBLING MACHINE GAMES; AMENDING SECTIONS 23-5-
8 607 AND 23-5-608, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

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12 **Section 1.** Section 23-5-607, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"23-5-607. Expected payback -- verification.** (1) The department shall prescribe the expected
14 payback value of credit awarded to be at least 80% of the value of credit played for each bingo, poker, keno,
15 and video line game in a video gambling machine. The credit ratio may not be greater than:

- 16 (a) 92% for each video line game;
- 17 (b) 96.5% for each bingo and keno game; and
- 18 (c) 97.5% for each poker game.

19 (2) Each video gambling machine must have an electronic accounting device that the department
20 may use to verify the winning percentage."

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22 **Section 2.** Section 23-5-608, MCA, is amended to read:

23 **"23-5-608. Limitation on amount of money played and value of prizes -- payment of credits in**
24 **cash -- ticket voucher expiration -- rules.** (1) A video gambling machine may not allow more than ~~\$2~~ \$3 to be
25 played on a game or award free games or credits in excess of ~~\$800~~ \$1,199 a game.

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

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

1 invalid."

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3 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective dates. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is

4 effective January 1, 2024.

5 (2) [Section 2] and this section are effective on passage and approval.

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7 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Applicability -- Grandfather. [Section 1] applies to video gambling

8 machine games placed into operation on or after January 1, 2024.

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