

MONTANA TAVERN TIMES

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By Angela Nunn

Operations Bureau Chief, Gambling Control Division

My articles over the last few months periodically refer to the Gambling Control Division website, so I thought I would highlight some of the resources that are available.

The website can be accessed by navigating through the main Department of Justice webpage (www.doj.mt.gov), or more directly by typing www.doj.mt.gov/gaming into your web browser. The main “Gambling Regulation” page has contact information for the Operations Bureau, Investigations Bureau, License and Tax Section, Technical Services Section, and the field offices located across Montana. The main page also has a menu down the left-hand side of the website which contains links to specific categories of information.

The first link I would like to point out is “Forms”. This page contains forms for gambling and liquor licensing as well as gambling permits and machine licensure; special gambling licenses; VGM shipment, acquisition, import, export, and service; and gambling tax reporting. Most of the forms can be downloaded, filled in, saved, and printed. A few forms may need to be printed and filled out manually. Currently, none of the forms can be submitted online (they have to be mailed in), but that is a service we hope to provide in the future.

The next page is related to “Gambling Laws & Administrative Rules”. This page provides links to the gambling section of the Montana Constitution, the Public Policy on Gambling, the Gambling Statutes, and the Administrative Rules of Montana associated with gambling.

One page that is updated very regularly and provides a large variety of information is the “Gambling Statistics and Reports” page. Every quarter, a report is prepared that summarizes the gambling activity over the last quarter and compares it to previous quarters and/or fiscal years. Another report available lists and compares the VGM tax collections by county and large cities within Montana. At the end of December, we published the Biennial Report for fiscal year 2011 through fiscal year 2012. This 24-page report contains a variety of reports, statistics, graphs, and charts related to gambling activity and regulation over the last two years. There are many other reports available on this page as well such as businesses licensed to offer certain activities, active machine counts, licensed card dealers, etc.

The Gaming Advisory Council page contains a list of the current Council members and who they represent. It also provides the date, time, and location of the next scheduled GAC meeting as well as the agenda once it has been established. Once the meeting minutes have been approved by the Council, they are uploaded and made available online as well.

The “Training Resources” page used to be dedicated to identifying webinars and training sessions related to the new VGM online reporting system. Since 99% of operators are now using the system, there is no need for regularly scheduled demonstrations so the purpose of this page

has been expanded. It does contain a link to the “user guide” associated with the VGM online reporting system for users to be able to access as needed and/or print out for a reference. It also contains recent Tavern Times articles that have been written on different topics that can be used as a resource as applicable situations arise. It is our intent to continue adding resources to this page as we are able. Current projects include the Montana Poker Rule Book and a Credit Gambling informational flyer.

As with anything, it is a work in progress and we are open to suggestions on how we can improve communications through our website.

For more information, please call our office at (406) 444-1971 or email gcd@mt.gov.