

RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321

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MAY 4 2026

IOWA RACING & GAMING
COMMISSION

Petition by Joseph Larison for the adoption of rules relating to slot machine jackpots.	}	PETITION FOR RULEMAKING
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The petition must provide the following information:

1. A statement of the specific rulemaking action sought by the petitioner including the text or a summary of the contents of the proposed rule or amendment to a rule and, if it is a petition to amend or repeal a rule, a citation and the relevant language to the particular portion or portions of the rule proposed to be amended or repealed.

Seeking adoption of the following rule: It shall be the responsibility of each licensee gambling facility to allow only one patron or customer to occupy, play or use a slot machine at any given time. There can be no switching or taking turns using the slot machine

2. A citation to any law deemed relevant to the commission's authority to take the action urged or to the desirability of that action.

Iowa Code 99F.15 (4) "h,n,o"

3. A brief summary of petitioner's arguments in support of the action urged in the petition.

Modern slot machines have all kinds of bonus modes and automated play that determines the jackpot "winner." Some even allow a player to "buy into a bonus." At the end of the day it falls on the low paid surveillance officer to determine if a class "D" felony was committed and who put the machine in "bonus" rather than simply who hit the button last. What was the last meaningful button hit based on the software design of the game? There are too many new and varied designs to keep up with to make this determination in a reasonable time to pay the correct patron. This matters due to the Setoff program the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission imposes on casino licensees. The optimal way to eliminate this problem is to forbid casinos from allowing 2+ people to play the same machine at one time.

4. A brief summary of any data supporting the action urged in the petition.

- *Slots make up 90% of the revenue in Iowa Casinos.¹*
- *The total money collected through the Setoff program in 2025 alone was \$6,895,944.20 as a claim of lien against the winnings of the debtor/jackpot winner.² This amount gets more compromised and imperfect the more licensee surveillance staff must postulate on the correct slot jackpot winner.*

- Traditional mechanical slot machines offer a simple spin-and-win, but modern video slot machines make it more difficult than simply identifying “the last person to push the button.” Bonus features like free spins, expanding wilds, cascading reels and varying multipliers are introduced for visual enhancement at the expense of winner identification when played by 2+ patrons simultaneously.³
- Video slot machines make up 73% of slots in the U.S. and Canada casino market according to an Eilers & Krejci slot survey from 2021.⁴ Likely more today.
- Two of the biggest slot manufactures, Aristocrat and IGT, introduced 200 and 240 new slot game titles last year alone, respectively.⁵ Surveillance and slot personnel can't be expected to keep up with the new bonus features and software designs that determine a “jackpot” on each new game.

5. The names and addresses of other persons, or a description of any class of persons, known by petitioner to be affected by, or interested in, the proposed action which is the subject of the petition.

Ameristar Casino Council Bluffs, LLC
2200 River Road
Council Bluffs, IA 51501
Phone: 712-328-8888

Isle of Capri Bettendorf, L.C.
1777 Isle Parkway
Bettendorf, IA 52722
Phone: 563-359-7280

Casino Queen Marquette, LLC
100 Anti-Monopoly
PO Box 460
Marquette, IA 52158
Phone: 563-873-3531

HGI- Lakeside, LLC
P.O. Box 424
Osceola, IA 50213
Phone: 641-342-9511

Great River Casino Resort, LLC (Catfish Bend)
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Phone: 319-753-2946

Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino, Inc.
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Diamond Jo, LLC
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Phone: 563-690-4800

Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd. (Q Casino)
1855 Greyhound Park Drive
Dubuque, IA 52001
Phone: 563-582-3647

Diamond Jo Worth, LLC
777 Diamond Jo Lane
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Phone: 641-323-7777

Rhythm City Casino, LLC
7077 Elmore Avenue
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Grand Falls Casino Resort, LLC
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Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, LLC
3184 Highway 22
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SCE Partners, LLC (Hard Rock)
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Wild Rose Clinton, L.L.C.
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Harveys Iowa Management Company LLC (Harrah's)
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Wild Rose Jefferson, L.L.C.
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IOC Black Hawk County, Inc. (Isle)
777 Isle of Capri Blvd.
Waterloo, IA 50701
Phone: 319-833-4753

¹<https://irgc.iowa.gov/publications-reports/gaming-revenue>

²Iowa Open Records Request #26-1677. Iowa Department of Revenue

³<https://valleyviewcasino.com/what-is-the-difference-between-classic-and-video-slot-machines/#>

⁴Eilers-Fantini Slot Survey-1Q21 (page 12)

⁵<https://www.aristocratgaming.com/us/casino-operator/news/2025/aristocrat-gaming-and-aristocrat-interactive-unveil-200-titles-and-breakthrough-tech-at-g2e-2025>

⁵<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/igt-presents-powerhouse-combination-of-gaming-digital-and-fintech-solutions-at-global-gaming-expo-2025-302569031.html>

Joseph Larison May 4, 2026

Joseph Larison