

BEFORE THE IOWA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION

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PETITION BY JOSEPH LARISON	)	Matter No. 26-319U
	)	
FOR RULEMAKING	)	
	)	<b>NOTIFICATION AND</b>
REQUESTING ADOPTION OF RULES	)	<b>SCHEDULING ORDER</b>
RELATING TO SLOT MACHINE	)	and
JACKPOTS	)	<b>INVITATION TO COMMENT</b>

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On May 4, 2026, Petitioner Joseph Larison filed a petition for rulemaking with the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission. The petition asserts:

1. Modern slot machine games, especially those with multiple different bonus modes, free spins, expanding wilds, cascading reels, and varying multipliers, make it too difficult for casino surveillance personnel, some of whom are “low paid,” to determine the proper winner of a slot machine jackpot in a reasonable time to pay the correct patron.
2. Casino surveillance and slot personnel cannot or should not be expected to keep up with new bonus features and software designs that determine a jackpot on each new game.
3. Difficulty determining the proper winner in turn causes more difficulty in ensuring or maintaining compliance with licensed casinos’ obligation to collect debt setoffs under Iowa Code section 99F.19.
4. This issue is important both because slot machine revenue is a large portion of casino revenue in Iowa, and because the Iowa setoff program recovers millions of dollars in unpaid debt each year.

The petition requests that the Commission adopt a rule forbidding casinos from allowing two or more people to play the same slot machine at one time. The specific proposed rule language is:

*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.*

In accordance with Iowa Administrative Code rule 491—2.18, the petition lists 19 currently-operating casino licensees who may be affected by or interested in the proposed action or proposed rule. In addition, the Commission concludes the following organizations, agencies, or entities may also be affected or interested:

1. Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC and Linn County Gaming Association, Inc., which hold licenses to conduct gambling games and operate a gambling structure in Cedar Rapids, Iowa that has not yet begun operation.
2. The Iowa Gaming Association (IGA), an association comprised of all Iowa gambling games licensees that has previously participated in Commission administrative proceedings. *See Kopecky v. Iowa Racing & Gaming Comm'n*, 891 N.W.2d 439, 441 (Iowa 2017) (noting the IGA participated in a declaratory order proceeding).
3. The Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), which has promulgated rules governing casino surveillance systems in Iowa Administrative Code chapter 661—141. In addition, DCI may have an interest in or be affected by the proposed rule because, under Iowa Code section 80.25A, DCI agents are tasked with investigating potential criminal violations involving Iowa Code section 99F.15(4)(h), (n), and (o).

This order will be distributed to Petitioner Larison, the 19 licensees identified in the petition, and the three organizations, agencies, or entities additionally identified above.

#### **SCHEDULE AND INVITATION TO COMMENT**

Under Iowa Code section 17A.7 and Iowa Administrative Code rule 491—2.18(4), the Commission meets to consider and decide on rulemaking petitions within 60 days after the petition is filed. This petition will therefore appear on the agenda for the Commission meeting scheduled on **June 11, 2026**, at Diamond Jo Casino & Hotel, 777 Diamond Jo Lane, Northwood, IA 50459.

Any person wishing to provide comments, feedback, data, or argument on the petition, or on the rule it requests the Commission to adopt, may submit comments to the Commission no later than **May 28, 2026**. Comments may be submitted by mail to Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission, 6200 Park Ave., Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321, or by email to [irgc@iowa.gov](mailto:irgc@iowa.gov). Comments do not necessarily need to take any specific form or be styled as a legal brief. Those submitting written comments should be aware that written comments of this nature are generally considered open records available for public inspection under Iowa law.

The Commission has not yet decided whether it will hear oral presentations regarding the petition. However, any person may request to appear before the Commission in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code rule 491—1.2(2)(b).

Dated: 5/14/2024

  
Tina M. Eick, Administrator  
Iowa Racing & Gaming Commission