



PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN GAMING MACHINES AND SKILL-BASED DEVICES

ABOUT

§ 9-5901. Prohibition on Certain Gaming and Skill-Based Devices

Bill No. 240010 was created to advance the City's commitment to reducing nuisance behaviors in and around businesses to improve the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

Effective August 2024, certain establishments in the City of Philadelphia are prohibited from offering gaming and skill-based devices. Prohibited machines include any device that accepts cash payment for the chance of a monetary reward in connection with playing a casino-style game or skill-based game.

WHAT BUSINESSES CAN OFFER SKILL-FOR-CASH GAMES AND SIMILAR GAMING MACHINES?

Businesses in the City of Philadelphia are permitted to offer gaming machines and/or skill-for-cash game machines if they meet the following criteria:

1. Are a licensed facility as defined in the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act and/or
2. Have a liquor license AND 30 or more seats readily available for use by customers to consume food & beverage.

In addition:

- Businesses that meet the above criteria can only have up to five (5) machines per licensed establishment.
- and
- Effective January 1, 2025, all monetary payouts from the machines must be done through electronic means. Any cash payout from the establishment is prohibited.

CONTACT

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FAQS

What is a skill-for-cash gaming machine?

- A “skill-for-cash gaming machine” means any device that accepts cash payment for the chance of a monetary reward in connection with playing a casino-style games, skill-based game, or a combination of both.

Are grocery stores, convenience stores, or other retail establishments allowed to offer skill-for-cash devices and/or similar gaming devices?

- Grocery stores with a liquor license AND at least 30 or more seats readily available for customers may have up to 5 gaming machines in use.

Are bars, restaurants or other food establishments allowed to offer skill-for-cash devices and/or similar gaming devices?

- Food establishments with a liquor license AND at least 30 or more seats readily available for customers may have up to 5 gaming machines.

My business already has a skill-for-cash device or similar gaming machine, but I do not meet the criteria. Now what?

- You should contact your device or machine provider to develop a plan to have the machines removed from the premises.
- If an enforcement agency of the City of Philadelphia discovers that your establishment is hosting gaming machine(s), your business will be held accountable and may be subject to a \$1,000 violation per device per day.
- Failure to remove the machines after the first \$1,000 violation may result in the City ordering you to cease business operations until the devices are removed.

Any business that does not follow these rules may be fined \$1,000 daily for each device present at the business.

Additionally, continued failure to remove devices after receiving notice to do so may result in your business operations being ceased and your licenses to do business being revoked.

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