



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1356

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Sen. Michael E. Hastings

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Video Gaming Ethics and Political Contributions Prohibition Act. Prohibits a video game terminal operator, landlord, or property owner, the board of directors or investors of a terminal operator, landlord, or property owner, or immediately family members of a terminal operator, landlord, or property owner from making a contribution to: (1) a municipal or county official responsible for issuing gaming licenses; or (2) a political action committee that supports or is affiliated with such officials. Provides that any corporation, organization, or entity receiving benefits from a gaming license shall disclose the names of directors, employees, investors, landlords, and their immediate family members who receive a benefit to the appropriate governmental body. Requires political organizations, candidates, political action committees, and independent expenditure committees to maintain records and disclose contributions from individuals or entities subject to the Act. Imposes penalties on any person or entity found to have made prohibited political contributions and on any municipal or county official who knowingly accepts prohibited political contributions. Allows the Illinois Gaming Board, the Illinois State Board of Elections, and the Illinois Ethics Commission to enforce the Act. Allows the Attorney General to prosecute violations of the Act. Effective immediately.

LRB104 08115 LNS 18161 b

1 AN ACT concerning gaming.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Video  
5 Gaming Ethics and Political Contributions Prohibition Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose; application.

7 (a) The purpose of this Act is to promote transparency,  
8 prevent conflicts of interest, and protect the integrity of  
9 the democratic process by prohibiting directors, employees,  
10 investors, landlords, property owners, video game terminal  
11 operators, and their immediate family members from making  
12 political contributions to candidates, political  
13 organizations, political action committees, or independent  
14 expenditure committees that may directly or indirectly  
15 influence their financial interests.

16 (b) This prohibition applies to entities benefiting from  
17 gaming licenses.

18 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

19 "Board of directors" means the governing body of an entity  
20 that owns or operates a gaming location or leases property to  
21 such operators.

22 "Gaming location investor" means an individual or entity

1 that holds a financial interest in a licensed gaming location,  
2 including the individual's or entity's immediate family  
3 members.

4 "Immediate family member" means a spouse, domestic  
5 partner, parent, sibling, child, or any other relative  
6 residing in the same household as the individual.

7 "Landlord" means an individual or entity that owns or  
8 manages a property and leases all or part of it to tenants,  
9 including gaming operators or video gaming location owners.

10 "Municipal or county issuer" means a local governmental  
11 body, official, or regulatory entity responsible for approving  
12 or issuing gaming.

13 "Political action committee" means any committee,  
14 organization, or entity organized for the purpose of raising  
15 or spending funds to influence political elections.

16 "Video game terminal operator" means an individual or  
17 entity licensed to operate video gaming terminals.

18 Section 15. Prohibited contributions.

19 (a) No video game terminal operator, landlord, or property  
20 owner, the board of directors or investors of a terminal  
21 operator, landlord, or property owner, or immediately family  
22 members of a terminal operator, landlord, or property owner  
23 may make a contribution to:

24 (1) a municipal or county official responsible for  
25 issuing gaming licenses; or

1           (2) a political action committee that supports or is  
2           affiliated with such officials.

3           (b) The prohibition applies for a period of 10 years from  
4           the date of issuance or approval of the gaming license, tax  
5           increment financing district benefit, or zoning variance.

6           Section 20. Disclosure of benefits and contributions.

7           (a) Any corporation, organization, or entity receiving  
8           benefits from a gaming license shall disclose the names of  
9           directors, employees, investors, landlords, and their  
10          immediate family members who receive a benefit to the  
11          appropriate governmental body. This disclosure shall be made  
12          annually and available for public inspection.

13          (b) Political organizations, candidates, political action  
14          committees, and independent expenditure committees shall  
15          maintain records and disclose contributions from individuals  
16          or entities subject to the provisions of this Act.

17          Section 25. Penalties.

18          (a) Any person or entity found to have violated the  
19          provisions of this Act by making prohibited political  
20          contributions shall be subject to:

21                  (1) A civil penalty of up to \$100,000.

22                  (2) Suspension or revocation of the gaming license or  
23                  associated with the violating party.

24                  (3) Ineligibility to receive future benefits from

1 gaming licenses for a period of up to 5 years.

2 (b) Any municipal or county official who knowingly accepts  
3 a prohibited political contribution shall be subject to:

4 (1) An ethics investigation and potential action,  
5 including removal from office.

6 (2) Criminal penalties for repeated or intentional  
7 violations, including imprisonment for up to one year.

8 Section 30. Enforcement.

9 (a) The Illinois Gaming Board, the Illinois State Board of  
10 Elections, and the Illinois Ethics Commission are responsible  
11 for enforcement of this Act, including conducting  
12 investigations and imposing penalties.

13 (b) The Attorney General may also prosecute a violation of  
14 this Act.

15 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are  
16 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

17 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
18 becoming law.