



Notice of Permanent Rule Changes Related to Minimum Cash on Hand Requirements.

This explanatory statement concerns the Washington State Gambling Commission's Amendment of:

- **WAC 230-15-050- Minimum cash on hand requirements.**

And Adoption of:

- **WAC 230-15-673- Paying out house jackpot prizes.**
- **WAC 230-15-674- Keeping funds to pay house jackpot prizes.**

The Administrative Procedure Act ([RCW 34.05.325\(6\)](#)) requires agencies to complete a concise explanatory statement before filing amended rules with the Office of the Code Reviser. This statement must be provided to anyone who provided comments regarding the proposed rule-making.

Once persons who provided comments during this rulemaking have had an opportunity to receive this document, the Washington State Gambling Commission will file the rule changes with the Office of the Code Reviser. These changes will become effective on or after January 20, 2022.

The Washington State Gambling Commission appreciates your involvement in the rule-making process. If you have any questions, please contact Ashlie Laydon, Rules Coordinator, at ashlie.laydon@wsgc.wa.gov or (360) 486-3473.

What are the agency's reasons for these rule changes?

The Gambling Commission received a petition requesting that operators running house-banked jackpots be allowed to keep required jackpot money in a separate, off-site account rather than on premises. This change addresses operator and player safety concerns. These rule changes address card room licensees keeping funds in a separate, off-site account rather than on premises, and also address maintaining funds and paying out prizes.

The following rule was amended:

- **WAC 230-15-050- Minimum cash on hand requirements**, to specifically exclude house jackpot prizes, in addition to progressive and player-supported jackpots, which were already excluded, from the calculation of the minimum amount of cash a house-banked card room licensee must have on hand.

The following rules were adopted:

- **WAC 230-15-673- Paying out house jackpot prizes**, to outline prize payout requirements for house jackpots.
- **WAC 230-15-674- Keeping funds to pay house jackpot prizes**, to outline how funds for house jackpots must be maintained.

Summary of all public comments received on this rule proposal and consideration of the comments. If we responded to comments, add our response and how the final rule reflects consideration of the comments or why it fails to do so.

Staff worked with the petitioner on draft language to address staff’s concerns on how licensees will maintain funds and pay out prizes. Draft language was sent out to the petitioner for review on September 8, 2021 and to licensed house-banked card rooms for review on September 10, 2021. Draft language was filed with the Office of the Code Reviser on October 18, 2021 (WSR 21-21-092) and posted on the agency website.

Public Comment:

Galaxy Gaming, Inc.

Comments received on September 14, 2021 referencing the following:

No comments or concerns with proposed language.

Response: Language was adopted as proposed.

Hawks Prairie Casino

Comments received on September 23, 2021 referencing the following:

Expressed that licensees should be able to keep promotion money in a bank account to gain interest but more importantly because licensees don’t want to keep potentially huge amounts of cash in the cashier’s cage as licensees have limited security guards.

Response: Language was adopted as proposed.

Roxy’s Bar & Grill

Comments received on September 14, 2021 referencing the following:

Strongly agree with proposed changes and urge the Commission to adopt.

Response: Language was adopted as proposed.

If there are variances from the proposed rule and final adopted rule, state the reasons for the differences (RCW 34.05.325(6)(a)(ii)).

None.