

Update on Proposed Licensing Fee Increase in 2014

October 21, 2013

After much discussion and consideration, staff asked the five-person Commission to consider a fee increase of up to 5% to be effective July 1, 2014. At their September 2013 meeting, the Commissioners approved this request.

In order to get input from our stakeholders, we had an online survey available which was mentioned in our 2nd quarter Focus on Gambling licensee newsletter. We estimate that through our various outreach efforts, approximately 4,000 readers would have been aware of the survey. About 40 stakeholders took the survey and gave us their thoughts. Two stakeholders were supportive of the increase, two were neutral and the remainder were not in support.

Two of the comments we received were:

- “It is such a burden for non profits to incur these increases. I wish agencies would utilize other avenues to save costs first. How much does it cost to send out these paper newsletters? I for one would much rather have a non paper option and it saves money. This is just one example. There are so many ways to save costs that have not been explored as of yet.”
- “I oppose mostly because the economy at the time has severely impacted my gambling income.”

Although we plan to work with the legislature on a possible fee increase, we will also continue to look for ways to cut costs. Please see the two articles on the next page for:

- How we are “going paperless” - an idea that was suggested in response to the survey.
- Information about *My Account*, which was launched this year to help make operating business easier for licensees and to better connect us with all of our customers.

Before implementing any fee increase, the Commissioners would need to change the WAC rules that set the fees. Continue to look for updates in this newsletter. For questions, please contact Amy B. Hunter, Legislative Liaison, at Amy.Hunter@wsgc.wa.gov.

Article #1: Going Paperless for the 2014 Commission Meetings

In an effort to follow Governor Inslee's Lean Efforts outlined in Results Washington, we are going paperless for the 2014 Commission meetings.

Beginning with the January 2014 meeting, hard copies of the Commission meeting handout packets will no longer be available at the meetings. Instead, we are asking meeting attendees to view handout packets on our website. This way, they can print only the pages they need or find of interest. Handout packets are posted on our website under [Public Meetings](#) the week of each meeting. Meeting agendas (an outline of what will be discussed) and rules packages are posted under [Public Meetings](#) about two weeks before each meeting.

For your convenience, we will e-mail you a link to Commission meeting information as soon as it's posted on our website. All you need to do is request an e-mail notification in your [My Account](#) (see Account Settings, manage how we contact you, and select Commission meetings). This way you will get meeting information without having to visit our website to see if it's posted. You can also sign-up to get this newsletter and rule-making notices e-mailed to you.

If you don't have a [My Account](#), click on "[Sign In/My Account](#)" located in the top right corner of our website. After you register, you will receive a confirmation e-mail to activate your new account. For questions about going paperless in 2014, please contact Michelle Rancour at (360)486-3447 or e-mail michelle.rancour@wsgc.wa.gov.

Article #2: My Account

If you don't have a [My Account](#), now is the time! [My Account](#) was launched May 2013 and is designed to make it easier for our licensees to do business with us and better connect us with all of our customers. [My Account](#) is for both licensees and non-licensees. Everyone can create a [My Account](#) by clicking on "[Sign In/My Account](#)" in the top right corner of our website. After you register, you will receive a confirmation e-mail to activate your new account.

Licensees may conduct most gambling related business via their personalized [My Account](#). Here are a few of the tools and services available in [My Account](#):

- A personalized calendar which can be used for many things, including tracking:
 - Expiration date(s) of gambling license(s) and the gambling licenses of employees.
 - Activity report due dates.
 - Dates and locations of Commission Meetings.
- Commercial operators can renew their gambling license and their employees' gambling licenses by completing renewal applications and paying licensing fees in [My Account](#).
- Pay their second-half license fee payment.
- Find contact information for the gambling agent assigned to their licensed business.
- Update their contact information.
- File their activity report and view past activity reports.

Everyone can sign-up for e-mail notifications in [My Account](#). You can choose to receive:

- Newsletters (6 times a year)
- Commission meeting packets (10 times a year); and
- Rule-making notices.

Click "Update Account Settings" to choose which notifications you want to receive. E-mail notifications are a great way to get information without having to visit our website to see if new information is posted.