



## What's New and What's News

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE LEGISLATURE & OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

February 2013

This newsletter is dedicated to keeping the legislature and other governmental agencies informed of "What's New" in the Gambling Commission and "What's News."

### Ex Officio Delvin Retires



Senator Jerome Delvin, 8th District, has been an Ex Officio Member of the Commission since February 2005. Four members of the legislature act as ex officio members and only vote to approve or amend Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compacts.

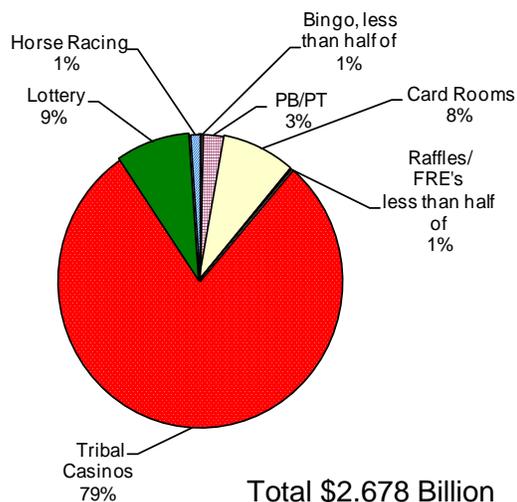
We wish Senator Delvin the best with his new position as a Benton County Commissioner.

### Problem Gambling

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week is March 3-9, 2013. For details: [www.npgaw.org](http://www.npgaw.org)

The National Conference on Problem Gambling will be hosted by the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling July 19-20, 2013, at the Doubletree by Hilton Seattle Airport. For details: [www.evergreencpg.org](http://www.evergreencpg.org)

### 2012 Gambling Net Receipts Increase of \$169 million from FY11



2012 = 6/11 to 6/12

Net Receipts = wagers minus prizes paid.

2011 Total Net Receipts-\$2.509 Billion

2010 Total Net Receipts-\$2.292 Billion

PB/PT = Punchboards & Pull-Tabs  
FRE = Fund Raising Events

### Farewell Commissioner Reichert



Commissioner Michael Reichert was appointed as a Gambling Commissioner July 2009 by Governor Gregoire; he resigned effective January 12, 2013. We anticipate Governor Inslee will appoint a new Commissioner to finish his term, which runs through June 2015.

Commissioner Reichert is President of Catholic Community Services of Western Washington and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority. He is an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, White Earth Indian Reservation.

We have appreciated Commissioner Reichert's valuable input, including providing tribal training to staff and wish him the best in his future projects.

### Problem Gambling Public Service Announcements

We partnered with the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling (Evergreen) (a nonprofit) to launch two problem gambling education and awareness Public Service Announcements (PSA) in 2013.

The first PSA launched January 31, 2013, and spotlights illegal underage gambling and how it can lead to problem gambling. The PSA is on our [website](#). ([SB 5040](#) passed in 2009 making underage gambling a civil infraction; [RCW 9.46.228](#)).

The second PSA will launch March 2013. We anticipate the message will include information about animal fighting and the illegal gambling that takes place at these violent events.



Evergreen is working with KOMO/Fisher Communications (KOMO) to produce these PSAs which will air on KOMO television and radio stations.



# Our Mission: Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest.

## Texas Hold'em Wager Limits

The wager limits for only Texas Hold'em were increased from \$40 to \$100 effective January 1, 2013, in response to a petition.

This increase came after eight years, which included the denial of several requests for a wager increase, a work group, and an 18 month pilot program (pilot). Here is a brief history:

Between 2005 and 2008, the Commissioners received three petitions to increase poker wager limits:

- In 2005, a petition to increase poker wagers limits from \$25 to \$100 was denied.
- In 2007, a petition to increase poker wager limits from \$25 to \$40 was adopted.
- In 2008, a petition to increase poker wager limits from \$40 to \$500 was filed. After a year of discussion, the Commission amended the petition and increased a specific type of "all-in" wager for only Texas Hold'em from \$40 to \$500. The rule was later found unworkable and the Commissioners repealed it.

In 2009, the Commissioners recommended that a workgroup of stakeholders and staff come together to discuss impacts and desired results of any potential card game wager increase. The workgroup met monthly and recommended an 18 month pilot to test increasing wager limits from \$40 to \$100 for only Texas Hold'em. During the October 2010 - May 2012 pilot :

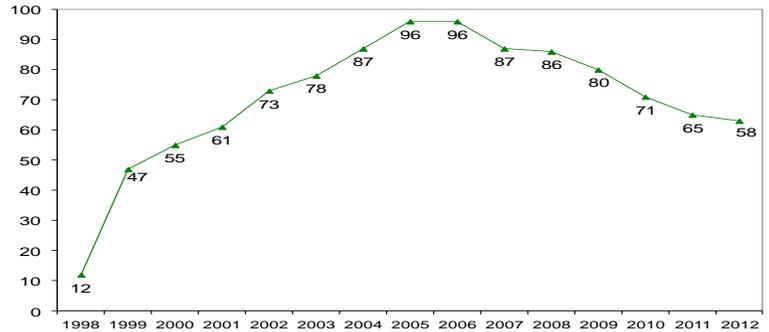
- 20 card rooms initially offered higher Texas Hold'em wager limits.
- 11 card rooms offered higher wager limits at the end of the pilot.
- 3 card rooms closed during the pilot .
- Higher wager limits were not offered every day.
- Though only a few card rooms offered increased wager limits, there were some positive impacts. Two card rooms showed an increase in food and beverage sales during increased wager limits.
- Commission staff experienced no regulatory problems.

Similar to the results of the pilot, we anticipate only a few card rooms will offer increased Texas Hold'em wager limits.

## House-Banked Card Rooms Decline

House-banked card rooms (HBCR) were authorized by the legislature in 1997. Since that time, we have received approximately 283 applications for house-banked card rooms and issued 171 licenses.

At the height of the industry in 2005 and 2006, there were 96 HBCR; as of January 2013, there are 58.



## Statistical Comparisons

	2011	2012
Background investigations conducted by us on licensees and new applicants	23,300	22,000
New applicants for a license	3,618	3,632
Percent of new applicants not qualifying for a license (mostly individuals)	3.6%	5.5%
Licensed Organizations	3,500	3,400
Licensed Individuals (e.g. card dealers)	16,000	15,700
Complaints from the public (we investigate all complaints)	455	448
Investigations initiated by us	414	326
Gambling rules/laws violations found	681	608
Criminal violations found	188	267
Criminal cases sent to prosecutors	50	66

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