



**Rule Petition to Amend and Adopt New Rules  
Authorizing Centralized Surveillance.**

**February 2024 – Request to Initiate Rulemaking**

**Tab 5: February 2024 Commission Meeting Agenda.**

**Statutory Authority 9.46.070**

**Who Proposed the Rule Change?**

Vicki Christopherson on behalf of Maverick Gaming

**Background**

Vicki Christopherson on behalf of Maverick Gaming is requesting to create a regulatory structure to allow centralized surveillance of house-banked card rooms under common ownership.

The petitioner stated this change can help house-banked card rooms with common ownership:

- Ensure compliance with regulations
- Maintain a safe and secure environment for guests and staff
- Protect gaming operations and the public.

The petitioner seeks to update the WAC to reflect the advancements in technology and opportunity for house-banked card rooms under common ownership to implement centralized surveillance monitoring systems designed to ensure that gaming is conducted in an honest, competitive, and safe environment.

In November 2021, a petition was received from Tim Merrill of Maverick Gaming to authorize centralized surveillance. In January 2022, the Commission chose to initiate rule-making that would address policy considerations outlined by staff. In February 2023, staff recommended withdrawing rulemaking due to the policy concerns outlined by staff. At the February 2023 commission meeting, the petitioner withdrew their petition with the understanding that staff would work with them on this topic over the next 18 months.

At the January 2024 commission meeting, staff provided an update on the discussions with Maverick Gaming and research done to date on the topic. Maverick Gaming also provided an update on their research done to date.

The purpose of surveillance systems is to, in a way that is not publicly accessible, document events that:

- Ensure the licensed gambling activities are conducted honestly and free of criminal elements and activities,
- Protect the public and employees, and
- Safeguard the licensee's assets.

Currently, rules require Class F and house-banked card room licensees to maintain analog or digital closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems within their licensed premises that are monitored by the licensee's card room employees.

Attachments:

- Petition
- January 2024 Commission staff PowerPoint Presentation
- January 2024 Maverick Gaming PowerPoint Presentation

## Policy Considerations

Staff did not find any jurisdiction in the U.S. currently allowing for centralized surveillance rooms for card room activities by rule or regulation. The petitioner has received special permission in Colorado and Nevada to operate a centralized surveillance room.

Staff confirmed that Maverick Gaming operates centralized surveillance in Nevada through a variance granted by Nevada Gaming Control Board (NGCB) Chair. The variance was granted to the NGCB casino surveillance standard requirements under Regulation 5.160. The circumstances for which variances are authorized are not outlined in statute or regulation.

Staff confirmed that Maverick Gaming operates centralized surveillance in Colorado as authorized under Division of Gaming's Internal Control Minimum Procedures, Section 13, Surveillance system standards, which requires each casino to have an "in-house" surveillance room, except for commonly owned casinos within the same county. They also authorize licensees to seek variances related to surveillance.

Staff have the following policy concerns:

- Location of centralized surveillance room, i.e., in-state, out-of-state, within the same county of card rooms being monitored, etc.
- The number of card rooms the centralized surveillance room can monitor and staffing requirements.
- Licensure of the centralized surveillance room and its employees.
- Network and operating requirements of the centralized surveillance rooms.
- Access to surveillance video by our staff and law enforcement.
- Ability to keep the surveillance system as a CCTV with the ability to view surveillance showing fluid motion and detail, without interruption.
- Type of security encryption used to transmit surveillance video.
- Communication between the card room and the centralized surveillance room.
- Responsibility for violations in the centralized surveillance room when they are tied to multiple licensed card rooms.

Attachments:

- Letters requesting approval for centralized surveillance in Nevada.
- Colorado Division of Gaming Internal Control Minimum Procedures Variance Request Forms

## Staff Recommendation

Under the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commission must act on a petition within 60 days of receiving it. Your options are:

- Initiate rule making proceedings by filing the rule as proposed for further discussion or
- Deny the petition in writing, (a) stating the reasons for denial and specifically address the concerns stated in the petition, or (b) where appropriate, indicate alternative means by which the agency will address the concerns raised in the petition.