

**Bill No.:** HB0171 **Effective:** **Immediately**  
**LSO No.:** 20LSO-0217  
**Enrolled Act No.:** HEA No. 0095  
**Chapter No.:** 114  
**Prime Sponsor:** Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Interim Committee  
**Catch Title:** **Wyoming gaming commission.**  
**Subject:** Wyoming gaming commission.

**Summary/Major Elements:**

- The bill converts the Wyoming Pari-Mutuel Commission into the Wyoming Gaming Commission. Commission membership is expanded from seven (7) to nine (9) members—one (1) a certified peace officer and the other a member of the Northern Arapaho or Eastern Shoshone Indian tribe with not less than five (5) years of regulatory gaming experience. Additionally, two (2) legislative members and one (1) gubernatorial representative will serve as liaisons to the Commission. The Commission is also authorized to employ peace officers, enforce criminal prohibitions on gambling, and work with the Wyoming Attorney General to prosecute gambling violations.
- The bill authorizes the continued use of skill based amusement games in the state until June 30, 2021. The Commission must approve each skill based amusement game and operators and establishments must pay specified fees as part of the approval process. Skill based amusement games may not be placed in areas in which a person under the age of twenty-one (21) years may enter and limitations are imposed including maximum wagers per play and maximum payouts per play. A maximum of four (4) skill based amusement games are allowed per establishment and only establishments that had skill based amusement games as of the effective date of the act are permitted to continue operating skill based amusement games in the state.
- The bill imposes on operators a tax of twenty percent (20%) of the net proceeds earned on the games assessed on a weekly basis.
- Commencing July 1, 2020, organizations that operate bingo games, pull-tab games, and Calcutta wagering events must obtain at no cost an operating license from the Commission and provide an annual report.

The above summary is not an official publication of the Wyoming Legislature and is not an official statement of legislative intent. While the Legislative Service Office endeavored to provide accurate information in this summary, it should not be relied upon as a comprehensive abstract of the bill.

**Comments:**

- The Wyoming Pari-Mutuel Commission is converted into the Wyoming Gaming Commission and the Commission's regulatory authority is expanded from pari-mutuel events to regulation of skill based amusement games.
- The Commission is required to report quarterly to the Joint Appropriations Committee on tax revenues received from skill based amusement games.
- Funds in the newly created Commission Gaming Account are continuously appropriated to the Commission to pay for reasonable expenses incurred in overseeing and regulating skill based amusement games.
- Two legislative appointments are required as noted above.
- The Commission is required to study gaming in the state and provide a report to the legislature. The report must provide options to the legislature for the potential regulation of all types of gaming. The report is due to the legislature by September 1, 2020.

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