

PS 59: West Virginia Slots 2019

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #59 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses what you need to know about the slot machine casino gambling environment in the state of West Virginia during 2019.

Thank you for joining me for the Professor Slots podcast show. I'm Jon Friedl and this is the podcast about slot machine casino gambling. It is where I provide knowledge, insights, and tools for helping you improve your slot machine gambling performance.

On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, on my last episode I went over Washington Slots 2019 with its 29 tribal casinos having VLT-style slot machines controlled remotely by the Tribal State Lottery system.

I hope you enjoyed listening to my last episode as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

Call to Action #1 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction

Today, I'm providing a brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

This time, it's West Virginia slot machine casino gambling in 2019. Here goes!

West Virginia slot machine casino gambling consists of five casinos including one casino resort and four pari-mutuel wagering facilities with slot machines. Bars, restaurants, and fraternal organizations may have up to ten video lottery terminals (VLTs).

The West Virginia state legislature has two sets of minimum and maximum payout limits depending upon the location of the gaming machine. Limited annual information is available on actual payout return statistics.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in West Virginia

The minimum legal gambling age in West Virginia depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21
- Poker Rooms: 21
- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 21

In 1994, West Virginia legalized video lottery terminals at their thoroughbred and greyhound racetracks. Machine restrictions at these pari-mutuel wagering facilities include approval by the local county and having only:

- Slots
- Blackjack
- Keno
- Many versions of poker

In 1999, West Virginia began allowing physical reel slot machines at licensed racetrack racinos.

In 2001, West Virginia passed a bill allowing these VLTs in bars, restaurants, and fraternal organizations. Bars and restaurants can have up to five VLTs and fraternal organizations up to ten VLTs. The Limited Video Lottery Act also imposed the state total of VLTs to 9,000 electronic gaming machines.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in West Virginia

Regarding slot machine private ownership, it is legal to own a slot machine in West Virginia privately.

Gaming Control Boards in West Virginia

The West Virginia Lottery Commission controls all VLT gaming regulations. After a 67% voter approval, the West Virginia Lottery was created in 1984 with Article VI, section 36 in the Constitution of West Virginia.

Afterward, West Virginia legalized VLTs with subsequent amendments, acts, rules, and statutes. Each of these statutes is available at the West Virginia Lottery's Rules and Regulations.

Casinos in West Virginia

There are four pari-mutuel racetracks and one casino resort with slot machines in West Virginia.

In mid-2018, these casinos had a total of 5,841 gaming machines available for playing 18 different games. Another 1,470 retail locations with five to ten VLTs have a variety of eleven games.

The largest casino in West Virginia is Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races having more than 2,500 gaming machines and 98 table games including a 16-table poker room.

The second largest casino is Mountaineer Casino Racetrack & Resort having 1,525 gaming machines and 36 table games.

Non-Tribal Casinos in West Virginia

There are five casinos in West Virginia. As usual when there are too many casinos to mention here, a complete list along with links to their websites, assuming they've set one up, is available on my website blog article for this state at professorslots.com/WV.

American Indian Casinos in West Virginia

West Virginia has no federally-recognized tribes and, therefore, no tribal casinos.

Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying West Virginia slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state. Bordering West Virginia is:

- North: Maryland and Pennsylvania
- East and South: Virginia
- West: Kentucky and Ohio

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, visit ProfessorSlots.com followed by its two-letter postal designation. For example, my Maryland slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/MD.

Our West Virginia Slots Community Facebook Group

Are you interested in sharing and learning with other slots enthusiasts in West Virginia? If so, join our new slots community on Facebook at professorslots.com/FBWV. All you'll need is a Facebook profile to join this closed Facebook Group freely.

There, you'll be able to privately share your slots experiences as well as chat with players about slots gambling in or near West Virginia. Join us! Again, use this convenient link I've created to go directly to our Group on Facebook: professorslots.com/FBWV.

Besides myself, currently, we have 7 members in our West Virginia slots community. To welcome people, when they join I'll ask them to share with us their favorite casino. So far, Donna has shared that her favorite casinos are Rocky Gap Casino and Resort Flintstone in Maryland. Monica says she goes to Wheeling Island the most, but only because its closest. Kenny also likes Wheeling Island, but says it's his favorite.

Lately, I've also taken to asking if anyone has been to a casino lately and did they have a trip report or photos to share? Members have been sharing which casinos they've been to most recently. It'll be interesting if they ever cross paths. I mean, knowingly cross paths. As often as some members go to the same casino, I wouldn't be surprised if they've sat next to one another at times. Right?

Payout Returns in West Virginia

West Virginia has two sets of payout limits. For racetrack racinos and the casino resort, the limits are 80% and 99.9%.

For the non-casino environment such as bars, restaurants, and fraternal organizations, these limits are 80% and 95%.

Further, the five to ten VLTs allowed at non-casino environments must obtain individual permissions to have a greater than 92% payout return. These so-called high payout terminals must twice obtain Commission approval including:

- Written consent prior to manufacturing
- Approval before applying for testing

The annual actual payout return percentage for all casinos in West Virginia was 92.92% in 2018 per the Commission's Financial Reports under the News and Info → Information tab at the West Virginia Lottery.

The West Virginia entry from the American Casino Guide's slots payback statistics offers further payout return statistics by casino facility. However, these values are not reported online by the state.

I've had more than a year, since my first West Virginia slots article, to think about how this is possible. I respect the content and long history of the American Casino Guide, which I reviewed in episode 44.

What I don't understand is how they can have payout return information which is not otherwise publicly available. For this latest West Virginia slots article, I looked everywhere for it. I just couldn't find it.

Sure, a year ago I knew next to nothing about West Virginia gaming regulations. It was possible I missed it. But this time? That's much less likely. So, again, how does the American Casino Guide know the payout return statistics by casino facility when only the payout return for all casinos was shared by the West Virginia gaming commission?

There's another problem with either the payout return statistic for all casinos from West Virginia or the payout returns statistics for each of the four casinos from the American Casino Guide. They don't add up, both figuratively and literally.

Each of the annual casino returns provided by the ACG is less than the percentage provided by West Virginia. The West Virginia percentage is nearly a whole percentage point higher. So, something is not adding up here.

It's a real puzzler. Well, perhaps this discrepancy will get sorted out in my 2020 review of West Virginia slots. We can hope so.

Summary to West Virginia Slots in 2019

West Virginia slot machine casino gambling consists of one casino resort, four dog or horse racetrack racinos, and 1,470 retailers. The four casinos may have gaming machines with up to 18 different games as well as slots with physical reels. Retailers may have five or ten video lottery terminals with as many as 11 different games.

Payout return limits are different for casinos versus retailers, although both have an identical minimum payout return limit of 80%. Casinos have a 99.9% maximum payout return limit.

However, retailers have a 95% maximum payout return limit with restrictions. Multiple Commission approvals are required for machines with a greater than 92% payout return limit.

Annual Progress in West Virginia Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Over the last year, there has been little change in the West Virginia gaming industry.

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On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

The next episode of the Professor Slots podcast will be my tribal gaming ultimate guide which took me over a year, about 13 months, to write.

To suggest a topic or ask a question which might end up as a blog article or on a podcast episode, email it to jon@professorslots.com where Jon is spelled J-O-N or by calling 702-90-SLOTS to leave a voicemail.

Closing (closing music)

That's the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening!

Show notes for this episode are now available within most podcast Apps, but are also available on my website at professorslots.com/episode59.

I plan to have the next episode come out very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show.

Until the next episode: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye.

320-character description:

West Virginia slots 2019 consists of 5 casinos having video lottery terminals (VLTs) controlled by the state lottery. Bars and restaurants can have 5 VLTs and fraternal organizations may have up to 10. Minimum and maximum payout returns have been set. I also share the favorite casinos of slots players in West Virginia.

156-character description:

West Virginia slots 2019 consists of 5 casinos and bars and restaurants having VLTs controlled by the state lottery. WV has minimum & maximum return limits.