



**PROFESSOR  
SLOTS**

## ILLINOIS 2017

# Slot Machine Casino Gambling



Illinois slot machine casino gambling includes ten riverboat casinos and video gaming at bars, restaurants, and other licensed non-casino locations. Gaming regulations in Illinois are unique due to the Video Gaming Act of 2009 requiring local governments to approve video gaming locations within their municipalities.

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## **Introduction to [Illinois Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2017](#)**

*Illinois slot machine casino gambling* includes ten riverboat casinos, now allowed to be permanently docked. No riverboat casinos are allowed in Cook County. to best protect potential disruption of horse-racing in the Chicago-area.

In 2009, the Illinois state legislature allowed video gaming terminals to be placed in bars, restaurants, veteran establishments, fraternal organizations, and truck stops.

Illinois also offers legal horse-racing as well as an state lottery. Unusually, Illinois is one of the first states to offer both of these gambling options online.

It is worth noting gambling is in a state of flux in Illinois, in large part because the state government is facing substantial and serious budgetary issues. As a result, pro-gaming lawmakers are pushing for further expansion of legalized gambling.

Finally, Indiana has an important role as a neighboring state with regards to Illinois slot machine casino gambling. Notably, Indiana has positioned its casinos only a few miles from the Illinois riverboat casinos. As Indiana casinos are subject to their own state's gaming regulations, they have the legal advantage of being open 24 hours per day.

This post continues the weekly blog series "[Slot Machine Casino Gambling, State-By-State](#)", a year-long online resource project dedicated to guiding slot machine gambling enthusiasts to

success.

Did you know I have a podcast? I do! Subscribe to the Professor Slots podcast at: [Apple Podcasts](#) | [Google Podcasts](#) | [Android](#) | [Spotify](#) | [Stitcher](#) | [iHeart Radio](#) | [Tune-In](#) | [SoundCloud](#) | [RSS](#).



Horse race online betting is legally available in Illinois.

## Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Illinois\*

Illinois slot machine casino gambling has legally existed since February 1990 with the Riverboat Gambling Act. This act legalized riverboat casinos, for which Illinois was the second state to do so. Such gaming licenses are limited to 10.

Riverboat casinos in Illinois were originally required to be able to cruise, but a new state law in 1999 allowed them to be permanently docked.

In 2009, the Illinois state legislature passed the Video Gaming Act, allowing video gaming terminals to be placed in “*Licensed Retail Establishments, Truck Stops, Veteran and Fraternal Establishments*”. It took until 2012 for the Illinois Gaming Board to provide mass approvals for these video gaming licenses.

However, in a somewhat unusual move within the U.S., the Act has also required approval from local municipalities hosting these video gaming terminal locations.

To be clear, Illinois slot machine casino gambling is partially authorized by local city governments, which is generating a great deal of interest and consideration from the gaming commissions of other U.S. states.

The minimum legal gambling age in Illinois is 21. Further, Illinois gaming regulations do not allow casinos to provide free alcoholic drinks and smoking is prohibited.

The Illinois Gaming Board hosts a website with extensive and thoroughly detailed descriptions its state gambling laws for [Riverboat Gambling](#) as well as [Video Gaming](#).

\*The purpose of this section is to inform the public of state gambling laws and how the laws apply to various forms of gambling. This information is not intended to provide legal advice.



Chicago skyline at sunset.

## **Slot Machine Private Ownership in Illinois**

It is legal to privately own a slot machine if it was manufactured 25 or more years ago.

## **Gaming Control Board in Illinois**

Riverboat casinos were launched, so to speak, in September 1991 with the Alton Belle. Illinois slot machine casino gambling in riverboats was legalized for the only the second time within a U.S. state. Ten riverboat casinos are allowed.

As stated on the [Illinois Gaming Board homepage](#), this state's gaming commission is a five-member board appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate.

Further, it administers a regulatory and tax collection system for riverboat casino gambling and video gaming. The Board's mission is to assure integrity through oversight of gaming activities as well as licensing of manufacturers, suppliers, and services for both.

Other Illinois gaming organizations within the state follow. Note that the first two organizations provided are state-run agencies:

- [Lottery](#)
- [Racing Board](#)
- [Casino Gaming Association](#)
- [Gaming Taxes](#)(e.g., Bingo)



Illinois state capital building in Springfield.

## Casinos in Illinois

Illinois slot machine casino gambling is available on riverboats in East St. Louis, Aurora, twice in Joliet, Metropolis, East Peoria, East Dubuque, and Rock Island.

Illinois' ten riverboat casinos include:

1. [Argosy's Alton Belle Casino](#)
  - Location: #1 Piasa Street, Alton, IL 62002
  - Telephone: 800-711-GAME (4263)

- Hours: Daily 8-6 a.m.
  - Payback: 91.11%
2. [Casino Queen](#)
    - Location: 200 S. Front St., East St. Louis, IL 62201
    - Telephone: 800-777-0777
    - Hours: Daily 8-6 a.m.
    - Payback: 92.63%
  3. [Grand Victoria Casino Elgin](#)
    - Location: 250 S. Grove Ave, Elgin, IL 60120
    - Telephone: 847-468-7000
    - Hours: Daily 8:30-6:30 a.m.
    - Payback: 91.08%
  4. [Harrah's Joliet](#)
    - Location: 151 N. Joliet St., Joliet, IL 60432
    - Telephone: 815-740-7800
    - Hours: Daily 8-6 a.m.
    - Payback: 92.07%
  5. [Harrah's Metropolis](#)
    - Location: 100 E. Front St., Metropolis, IL 62960
    - Telephone: 618-524-2628
    - Hours: Daily 8-6 a.m.
    - Payback: 88.99%
  6. [Hollywood Casino Aurora](#)
    - Location: 1 W New York St., Aurora, IL 60506
    - Telephone: 630-801-1234
    - Hours: Daily 8:30-6:30 a.m.
    - Payback: 90.61%
  7. [Hollywood Casino Joliet](#)
    - Location: 777 Hollywood Blvd, Joliet, IL 60436
    - Telephone: 815-744-9400
    - Hours: Daily 8:30-6:30 a.m.
    - Payback: 90.96%
  8. [Jumer's Casino & Hotel](#)
    - Location: 777 Jumer Dr., Rock Island, IL 61201
    - Telephone: 800-477-7747
    - Hours: Daily 7-5 a.m.
    - Payback: 90.75%

9. [Par-A-Dice Casino](#)

- Location: 21 Blackjack Blvd, East Peoria, IL 61611
- Telephone: 309-699-7711
- Hours: Daily 8-6 a.m.
- Payback: 91.22%

10. [Rivers Casino](#)

- Location: 3000 S. River Rd., Des Plaines, IL 62002
- Telephone: 847-795-0777
- Hours: Daily 9-7 a.m.
- Payback: 90.03%

The payback percentages above were annual statistics for all electronic gaming machines from mid-2015 through mid-2016 as provided by each riverboat casino to the state-run Illinois Gaming Board.



Illinois and the Historic U.S. Route 66.

## Summary of [Illinois Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2017](#)

*Illinois slot machine casino gambling* includes ten riverboat casinos and video gaming at bars, restaurants, and other licensed non-casino locations.

Gaming regulations in Illinois are currently unique due to their enacted Video Gaming Act of

2009 requiring local governments to approve video gaming locations within their municipalities.

The minimum legal gambling age in Illinois is 21. Illinois gaming regulations do not allow casinos to provide free alcoholic drinks. Smoking is prohibited.

## Other State-By-State Articles from Professor Slots

- Main: [Slot Machine Casino Gambling, State-By-State](#)
- Previous: [Idaho Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2017](#) - Idaho slot machine casino gambling currently consists of seven tribal casinos, each of which offers video games such as electronic pull-tab and slot-like bingo machines. Some of these casinos also offer video poker, video keno, video roulette, and electronic blackjack table games. There is no minimum payout return.
- Next: [Indiana Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2017](#) - Indiana slot machine casino gambling currently consists of thirteen gambling establishments, with an additional casino planned to open in early 2018. Casinos include ten riverboat casinos, two pari-mutuel facilities, and one land-based casino. There are 23,550 slots and gaming machines and 607 table games in the state.