

PS 45: Professor Slots 2019 Ideas | Idaho and Illinois Slots 2018

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #45 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses *Professor Slots 2019 – What to Expect in the Coming Year*. Plus, in this episode I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. states of Idaho and Illinois.

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.

“Jon Friedl from The Professor Slots Blog reveals all of his tips and tricks for thriving in the casino environment. Discover how to assess casinos to pick the best near you, choose winning slot machines, and identify your gambling goals: being entertained, earning comps, winning take-home cash, or combine them.”

On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, on my last episode I reviewed the 2019 Edition of American Casino Guide by Steve Bourie.

Also last episode, I reviewed Guam and Hawaii slot machine casino gambling 2018.

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

Call to Action #1 (add transition/bed music)

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 to Professor Slots 2019

Let's start with the first segment of the show: Professor Slots 2019 – What to Expect in the Coming Year.

Happy New Year 2019! I can already tell it's going to be an exciting year. Why, you ask? What do I have planned for *Professor Slots 2019*? Well, I'll tell you. It's simple, although perhaps not easy. My plan is to keep guiding slot machine casino gamblers to success.

This community you're connected with, a still relatively small group of dedicated slots enthusiasts, is growing larger every month. And, I will do what I can help that growth continue in 2019. So, let's talk about our goals and how to reach them together.

This episode segment has the following sub-sections:

1. Introduction
2. Progress Made in 2018
3. What Will Continue This Year
4. The Goal: Growing an Audience of Slots Enthusiasts
5. New Stuff I'll be Trying Out in 2019
6. What Else Would You Like?
7. Summary

Progress Made in 2018

It's impossible to make plans without first understanding what has already happened. Let's take last year, for example. In 2018, I produced 29 podcast episodes, sold nearly 200 copies of my book, published 75 videos, and wrote 83 blog articles.

I've asked myself, was starting a podcast a good idea? Heck yes, it was. Was it easy? Heck no, it wasn't! But, it was a lot of fun figuring out how to produce, edit, and publish a podcast. Like most everything about my Professor Slots brand, it was so very DIY.

Being all do-it-yourself, a lot has gone on behind the scenes to make it successful. As you may know, I'm technically inclined. I can figure out most anything technical if I put in the necessary time and research. And, of course, if I have enough funds for doing it.

So, with podcasting, I figured it out. And, consequently, my reward for all that effort was reaching an audience that likes to listen to my podcasts. Technically, it's hard to know how many people listen to my podcasts. But, overall, I had just under 22,000 downloads.

And, in January 2018, I decided to self-publish *Learning to Win* on Amazon Kindle as an e-book. Later in the year, I also make it available as a softcover. In this way, I was able to reach another audience segment that liked to read books.

But, late in the year, I realized there was another audience segment I had yet to serve. Lots of people like YouTube videos. While I'd put some videos on YouTube in the year prior, I really hadn't invested the necessary time and research to be successful at it.

Doing so was somewhat like learning to podcast, but required different equipment and software packages. It also meant setting up another permanent studio. Plus, I needed to learn the necessary video technology, again entirely DIY. White balance, anyone?

So, I started my YouTube channel in early December 2018. Since then, I've produced, edited, published a state-by-state video once every 48 hours. I have to say, jury-rigging a teleprompter for \$100 in parts and plastic zip-ties was a key to my success.

Otherwise, 2018 was about persevering. My mother became very ill in April 2018 while I was away at Gamblepalooza in Connecticut. I'm so glad she's no longer spending months at the hospital. But, my sister and I've had to help her transition to no longer able to do or live like she once had.

As I've said during tough times last year, life happens. And, sometimes, I've been unable to publish podcast episodes for a month or more due to these family emergencies. But, out of this, I hope you learned something important about me: I persevere.

No doubt 2019 will have its own troubles and difficulties. And, I will deal with them as they occur. So, if I do have to step away, I won't be gone long. Put another way, you don't earn 8 college degrees mostly in physics and engineering by not being able to persevere.

What Will Continue This Year

Looking back at 2018 has helped me understand what works. And, I learned about living the life of an entrepreneur who already has a full-time job. Learning to keep my publishing schedule wasn't easy, but was partly due to the time spent on DIY efforts.

My podcast clearly grew its audience in all of 2019, so it will continue. As I've previously mentioned, a lot of my efforts went into learning how to podcast. Everything has settled down quite a bit with producing podcast episodes, but I'll still make improvements.

The same is true about creating and growing my YouTube channel. There is still a lot to learn about it but, like podcasting, I've finally got creating videos mostly figured out, I expect to improve but also to be inundated with comments. Excellent!

Certainly, I'll also be continuing my weekly state-by-state articles. According to Google, those are popular. I'd hoped and planned for them to become an online resource and so they have. In fact, I have a plan to grow them further, but more on that in a bit.

Finally, a central core of everything I do is my articles on slots-related topics. Those will continue. Luckily, and happily, there is just so much more to write about. They are important because they are how I am most helpful to you.

Research articles on slots-related topics, state-by-state blogs, podcasts, YouTube videos, and books on Amazon Kindle all worked well in 2018. They were helpful to you, my audience. Because they were helpful, each will continue in 2019.

But, as always, there will be ... adjustments. Tweaks. Improvements. Fixes. Whatever you want to call it, I plan to keep getting better to be helpful to you and thereby grow an audience. That's the goal, anyway.

The Goal: Growing an Audience of Slots Enthusiasts

As interesting as it has been to be helpful to you as a slot machine enthusiast, I've found myself becoming deeply interested in how to be more helpful. To do so, I've had to learn to become something new. Or, at least, new to me. I'm now an entrepreneur.

Frankly, it's just me in this business. I'm the only employee. At least, for now. As I grow, I'll need to DIY having employees. Probably not in 2019, but later. As I grow, having employees will make sense. Whatever I've needed, so far, there's been an App for it.

As you may have heard me say, I'm not trying to make money. Not currently, that is. I have no plan to deliberately make money in 2019. It's just too soon. As with 2018, my overall business goal remains the same for 2019. My goal is to grow my audience.

And, it's working. I did grow my audience in 2018. I know how many people visited my website thanks to Google Analytics. I also know how many downloads my podcast episodes have gotten. But, they aren't my goal. They're not what is most important.

My metric to gauge my success aren't those measurements. I measure the success of my business by the number of email subscribers I have. It is my only ask of an audience member, at least for the time being.

Yes, I have a book on Amazon. But, I barely ever mention it. I also don't suggest people subscribe to my podcast. And, I don't ask anyone to subscribe to my YouTube channel or post a comment. I believe each of these helps with growing, but it's not my goal.

My goal is to grow my list of email subscribers. To do that, I offer useful information like my Top 7 Online Resources. I have a podcast, videos, and e-books to get my listeners, viewers, and readers to my website. Once there, I hope and plan, they will sign up.

And, with that being my entire focus for 2018, my list grew by more than three-fold. That was wonderful. If you've already signed up to my email list, I appreciate it. Thank you so much. It's how I measure success.

How many email subscribers does my research suggest I need to have a successful business? It's 2,000 email subscribers. Yes, I know I could get thousands per day by paying someone to hire a bunch of random people to sign up. That doesn't work.

I need 2,000 people like you to sign up. To be successful, I need people from my niche. I don't need just anyone. I need interesting people from a special group, who have a special interest. I need 2,000 slots enthusiasts.

Currently, I'm nearly 30% there. Naturally, I've kept good records on growing my list. It's not like it's hard, right? I've plotted that growth and extrapolated a trendline. If the rate of signup stays constant, we'll have 2,000 email subscribers in 2 years.

And, once we reach that goal, the next phase of my business will begin. I will, as they say, pivot. With 2,000 email subscribers, I will survey them to ask what they want. Once I know that I can create a valuable product to satisfy that need. But, it won't be free.

In the meantime, I'm not trying to make money. I'm only trying to be genuinely and freely helpful. Since I know myself well, I suspect I will always be helpful. Someday, and it looks like that will be in 2 years, I won't always be entirely free.

What I'm trying to convey isn't particularly easy for me, but I figured you should know. My Professor Slots brand isn't a hobby. Rather, it's a business. And, each month, I operate at what I think most people would consider being a rather significant loss.

I sold a record number of 65 copies of my book on Amazon in December 2018. I've set its price at less than \$20 each, which seemed reasonable. Any lower, and it's not considered valuable. For instance, what 90-cent book is?

But, as usual, Amazon took its 70% cut. In three months when Amazon pays royalties for December 2018, I'll have made more than half of one month's worth of business operating expenses.

Oh, I don't mind. After all, I'm investing myself in my business. I'm willing to continue doing this for a few more years. Research shows it'll take 6-8 years to be successful enough to quit my day job. With 2 years already gone by, 4-6 more years in fine by me.

But, in 4-6 years, I will have either succeeded or not succeeded. If the latter, I will try something else. If successful, my goals will again change. Are you surprised I have a 5-year-plan? Don't be. Heck, I've got a 5-year-backup-plan. Two of them, actually!

New Stuff I'll be Trying Out in 2019

So, I've discussed what happened last year. Of those, I've gone over what I will continue to do this year. I've even told you my goal as well as our progress toward achieving it. But, then there's the new stuff I'll be trying out.

I'm considering writing and self-publishing another book for Amazon Kindle in 2019. Yes, it'll also likely cost under \$20. I'm considering creating a book out of my state-by-state articles for the 56 states, territories, and the federal district.

Because this state-by-state online resource is a series which restarts every 56 weeks, this book I'm planning will be the first annual edition. What I mean is, each year I'll publish a new edition for each series of 56 articles.

Doing this is based on being helpful. And, lots of people like to read books. Plus, it's already a good online resource, so maybe it'll make a good offline resource. I only have one concern. Did I just commit to writing at least one book a year ... perhaps forever?

Other stuff for 2019 is learning to successfully deal with a growing YouTube channel. Looking at other channels, it could end up being my biggest source of an audience yet. But, I think it will be the most tumultuous.

If you didn't already know, YouTube commenters can be quite brutal. But, my skin has gotten quite a bit thicker over the last few years. Remember, I have a day job. It's been a real education working there, to say the least. But, it will help. Enough said!

So, trolls exist. But, I'm used to them. What I'm more concerned about is my usual concern: How can I be as helpful as possible? With YouTube comments, I'm told there will be a lot of them. And, a lot of comments can be difficult to keep up with.

Being helpful means replying to emails and comments within 24 hours. Possibly years from now, I will have the same issue all growing businesses have. Eventually, I will have difficulty finding enough time to personally answer all of them.

But, that's a long way in the future. Inundated by comments on my YouTube videos I can figure out, DIY-style. Five a day, I can handle now. Fifty a day? Maybe. Three hundred emails a day? Umm, what? Wow. That'd be tough. Or, maybe, not so tough.

As I've already mentioned, I'm technically inclined and there's generally an App for that, whatever that is. And, getting too many emails to easily process sounds like it would be solvable with some kind of App. Anyway, I'm not worried.

There is another issue with having a YouTube channel, though. I've been able to publish a new video every 48 hours for the last month due to having a backlog. As you may have noticed, every state-by-state blog article now comes with an embedded YouTube video.

But, I'm now caught up. Once a week, at the same rate I produce updated state-by-state blog articles, I will publish another state-by-state video. So, what about the other two videos each week?

To grow my YouTube audience at an optimal rate, I'll need to publish a video every 48 hours. But, there's another statistic that makes a quality YouTube video of the types I produce. They can't be more than 8 minutes long. At least, not for optimal growth.

And, basically, videos made from my research articles will be well over this 8-minute-limit. So, what to do, what to do? I'll guess I'll just have to get creative. I know, I'll DIY it!

Meanwhile, you'll watch me make a mess of it, fix the mess I make, then become the best at whatever it is. Again. Because, you know, that's what I do. I persevere.

Finally, there's the small but frequent stuff. So far, mostly, I've generated research articles. They are more for reference, now. For the near future though, I'll be mixing in more Q&A sessions as well as reviews of casinos, slot machine game themes, and books.

What Else Would You Like?

Blog articles on slots-related topics, continuing my online resource of state-by-state posts, weekly podcast episodes, a new YouTube video every 2 days, and another book by mid-2019. That's me being helpful. But, what else can I do for you?

Seriously, I'm interested. What I've learned about having a small business and growing an audience seems reasonable. I'm told you'll never really know in advance, never be able to accurately guess, what your audience will want until they tell you.

Maybe I'm trying to get a hint of what 2,000 email subscribers will want in something like 2 years. I'd certainly like to know now, if possible. Maybe you already know?

Is it more books? Articles? Videos? Is there something about the podcast you'd like added or changed? I'm not saying I can do anything and everything. But, it's easy for me to solve technical problems. So, ask. I do love DIY.

I'm currently making my best guess at what you want as a slot machine enthusiast. And, in the last year, I think I've come up with a few good ideas on what is helpful and how to reach you and more people like you.

But, there's still a lot of mystery here. I've gotten email suggestions which were, frankly, incredibly helpful. Another professor, for example, helped me see almost everything I'd been doing in a completely different way. It was quite helpful.

So, if you want to offer suggestions, please do so. My email and voicemail are available in the footer at the bottom of this webpage. Drop me a line or give me a ring, and tell me your thoughts. I'll appreciate it.

Summary of Professor Slots 2019

In summary, my plan is to keep guiding slot machine casino gamblers to success. I'll continue what works while improving them as I go, including educational articles, state-by-state blog series, podcasting, and DIYing a YouTube channel.

I plan to have new stuff as well, such as committing to writing a new book each year based on my state-by-state online resource. I'll also be adding more reviews to the mix. It's really all about being helpful to you, my dear fellow slots enthusiast.

Call to Action #2 (add transition/bed music)

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

Up next is the second segment of the show on slot machine casino gambling. Here, I provide a brief overview of the current state of gambling in two U.S. states, territories, or federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

Up first is Idaho slot machine casino gambling 2018. Here goes!

Idaho slot machine casino gambling currently consists of seven American Indian tribal casinos. Idaho's single pari-mutuel facility with live horse racing and "instant racing" machines finally closed in March 2018.

With its distinctive shape, Idaho forms part of the Pacific Northwest and is located in the northwestern region of the U.S., having a small border with Canada. It also borders six other U.S. states. The capital and largest city is Boise.

Major airports include the Boise Airport (BOI) serving southwestern Idaho, and Spokane International Airport (GEG) serving the northern region from nearby Spokane, Washington. There are also several regional airports available.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Idaho

The minimum legal gambling age in Idaho depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 18
- Poker Rooms: n/a
- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

The maximum bet in Idaho is \$50.

The state originally adopted criminal and constitutional prohibitions against all forms of Class III gaming, except pari-mutuel betting and a state lottery. This action was challenged by the tribe and taken to the federal district court.

Ultimately, the state drafted a proposed constitutional amendment changing its gaming laws, allowing state-tribal compacts to offer the Class III Vegas-style games currently available.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Idaho

Next up is a usually short statement about slot machine private ownership, which I have included in case you live in this U.S. state and are considering owning a slot machine. Here it is:

In Idaho, it is legal to privately own a slot machine if it was manufactured before 1950.

Gaming Control Board in Idaho

In place of a state gaming commission, state-tribal compacts exist between the Idaho state government and the tribes with casinos located within the state. These compacts exist between the Idaho government and the following tribes:

1. Coeur D'Alene Tribe of the Coeur D'Alene Tribe Reservation, Idaho
2. Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
3. Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho
4. Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho

Casinos in Idaho

In this section, I'll discuss Idaho gambling establishments.

Idaho has 7 American Indian tribal casinos located throughout the state.

The largest casino in Idaho is Coeur D'Alene Casino Resort Hotel in Worley, having over 1,400 gaming machines but no table games.

The second largest casino in Idaho is Fort Hall Casino & Hotel in Fort Hall, having over 900 gaming machines but no table games.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Idaho

Pari-mutuel horse racing was legalized in the state in 1964, immediately making existing race tracks legal and allowing additional race tracks to be opened in the same year.

Online horse betting became legal on July 1, 2014, allowing Historic Horse Race betting or “instant racing” machines.

Les Bois Park in Boise was the single commercial track in Idaho. It closed on March 30, 2018. Live racing ended the year before. The pari-mutuel facility stayed open a few more months by offering simulcast betting and “instant racing” machines.

American Indian Casinos in Idaho

Idaho has too many casinos to mention here, so I've put the complete list along with links to their websites, assuming they've set one up, on my website blog article for this state at professorslots.com/ID.

Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying *Idaho slot machine casino gambling*, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state.

Idaho is bordered by six U.S. states and a Canadian province:

- North: British Columbia Province of Canada
- East: Montana and Wyoming
- South: Nevada and Utah
- West: Oregon and Washington

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

Payout Returns in Idaho

Idaho's tribal-state compacts do not require a minimum theoretical payout return percentage. Without a minimum payout return, the tribal casinos of Idaho may legally set their payout return to being as low as they wish.

The only real practical limit, therefore, is how low their patrons will accept before choosing to gamble elsewhere. Given the relatively long distances between casinos in some parts of Idaho, there may be less risk of this rejection happening that might occur elsewhere.

Summary of Idaho Slots 2018

In summary, *Idaho slot machine casino gambling* currently consists of seven tribal casinos, each of which offers video slot machines as well 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.

The existing state-tribal compact does not require a minimum payout return when gambling at any of Idaho's American Indian tribal casinos. Also, actual payout return statistics are not legally required to be made available to the public,

Annual Progress in *Idaho Slot Machine Casino Gambling*

In the last year, Les Bois Park closed with its Historic Horse Race betting or "instant racing" machines.

Call to Action #3 (add transition/bed music)

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

Up next is the second state comprising this episode segment: Illinois Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2018. Here goes!

Illinois slot machine casino gambling consists of ten riverboat casinos, becoming the second U.S. state to offer them. They also offer video gaming terminals (VLTs) in bars, restaurants, and other establishments if approved by their local governments.

Cook County offers pari-mutuel wagering of horse-racing, but these 5 gambling facilities do not offer slot machines or table games. Therefore, they are not racinos.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Illinois

The minimum legal gambling age in Illinois depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21
- Poker Rooms: 21
- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: 18

- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

Pari-mutuel wagering of horse-races was approved in 1927. The Illinois Riverboat Gambling Act enacted in February 1990 legalized riverboat gambling on open water outside of Cook County. This restriction protected horse-racing in the Chicago area.

Another legal restriction applied to riverboat casinos is their hours of operation. Illinois riverboat casinos are legally required to be closed for two hours each day. In general, they are usually closed from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. However, these closed hours may be shifted by an hour depending on the specific casino.

Since 1990, Illinois has offered only ten gaming licenses for riverboat casinos. 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*".

The Act also offered local municipalities the ability to opt-out of hosting these video gaming terminal locations. Nevertheless, it took until 2012 for the Illinois Gaming Board to provide mass approvals for these video gaming licenses to the many license applicants.

To be clear, Illinois slot machine casino gambling is partially authorized by local city governments. Doing so created a great deal of ongoing interest and consideration in the other U.S. gaming jurisdictions.

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.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Illinois

Regarding slot machine private ownership, it is legal to privately own a slot machine in Illinois if manufactured 25 or more years ago.

Gaming Control Boards in Illinois

Illinois has five gaming control boards, each assigned to a different gambling activity:

1. Lottery
2. Racing Board
3. Casino Gaming Association
4. Gaming Taxes (e.g., Bingo)

5. Illinois Gaming Board

The Illinois Gaming Board regulates gaming and tax collection on riverboat casinos as well as all video lottery terminals within the state of Illinois.

It's a five-member board appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. The Board's mission is to assure integrity through oversight of gaming activities as well as licensing of manufacturers, suppliers, and services for both.

Casinos in Illinois

In early 1990, Illinois was the second U.S. state to legalize riverboat casinos. No riverboat casinos were allowed in Cook County in an attempt to protect horse-racing in the Chicago area.

Illinois has offered pari-mutuel wagering of horse-racing since 1927 as well as a state lottery since 1974. Somewhat unusually, Illinois is one of the first states to offer both of these gambling options online.

Originally, Illinois riverboat casinos were legally required to be undocked from land to offer onboard gambling. However, this requirement was updated in 1999 to instead allow gambling to be offered while permanently docked.

In 2009, the Illinois state legislature allowed video gaming terminals to be placed in bars, restaurants, veteran establishments, fraternal organizations, and truck stops. Applicants for these VLT machines are required to get approval from both the state as well as their local government.

Riverboat casinos were launched, so to speak, in September 1991 with the Alton Belle. Illinois riverboat casinos exist in East St. Louis, Aurora, twice in Joliet, Metropolis, East Peoria, East Dubuque, and Rock Island.

Each riverboat is legally authorized to have up to a total of 1,200 gaming machines including positions available at table games. The Illinois Gaming Board assumes each craps table offers 10 positions while all other table and keno offer 5 gaming positions.

In 2005, the Illinois state legislature established an admissions tax of \$2 or \$3. Admission is \$2 at Jumer's Casino Rock Island and \$3 at all the other riverboat casinos.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Illinois

The largest casino in Illinois is Hollywood Casino Joliet in Joliet, having over 1,100 gaming machines and 25 table games.

The second largest casino in Illinois is Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino in East Peoria, having over 1,100 gaming machines and 21 table games.

Illinois has 10 riverboat casinos, too many to mention here, so the complete list along with links to their websites is available on my website blog article for this state at professorslots.com/IL.

American Indian Casinos in Illinois

Illinois has no federally-recognized American Indian tribes. Therefore, there can't be any Illinois tribal casinos.

Other Gambling Establishments

By the end of 2017, 6,359 locations in Illinois offered video lottery terminals. In total, there were 28,271 active VLT gaming machines. Given Illinois' ten riverboat casinos are limited to 1,200 slot machines each, these additional VLTs would equate to another 24 casinos of similar size.

As an alternative to enjoying Illinois *slot machine casino gambling*, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state.

Illinois is bordered by:

- North: Wisconsin
- Northeast (across the southern tip of Lake Michigan): Michigan
- East: Indiana
- Southeast: Kentucky
- West: Iowa and Missouri

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

Note that 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 while Illinois casinos are closed two hours per day.

Payout Returns in Illinois

Illinois has established a minimum payout return limit of 80% during the lifetime of a game for slot machines. Further, they have also established a maximum payout percentage of 100%.

Each year, the annual actual payout return statistics for riverboat casinos are provided on the Illinois Gaming Board Annual Reports website.

The overall payout returns from 2017 for electronic gaming devices (EGDs) at Illinois ten riverboat casinos shows the highest payout return was at Casino Queen at 92.46% while the lowest in 2017 was Rivers Casino at 89.33%.

That's a significant difference in payout returns. The full list of 2017 payout returns for the 10 riverboat casinos in Illinois are in my website blog article for this state at professorslots.com/IL in the payout returns section.

It is well worth noting that each annual report also offers actual payout returns for each slot machine denomination from \$0.01 to \$100.

In addition, the Illinois Gaming Board's website has Riverboat Gambling Monthly Reports. These can be a little bit more difficult to decipher but provide useful monthly information.

For instance, they provide hold percentages for each casino and for each slot machine denomination for that month. Rather than looking at an annual average, these additional reports provide statistics for just last month.

However, the payout return statistics in these reports are offered as casino hold percentages rather than return percentages, where $\text{Return\%} = 100\% - \text{Hold\%}$.

Summary to Illinois Slots 2018

In summary, *Illinois slot machine casino gambling* includes ten riverboat casinos and video gaming at over 6,300 bars, restaurants, and other licensed non-casino locations.

Minimum and maximum legal limits for slot machines are 80% and 100%, respectively, over the lifetime of the game.

Actual payout return statistics in the form of casino hold percentages are publicly available on the Illinois Gaming Board website as annual and monthly averages. The 2017 annual average payout return statistics for each riverboat casino is provided on my website.

Annual Progress in *Illinois Slot Machine Casino Gambling*

Over the last year, state reporting shows video lottery terminal locations increased from 5,726 at the end of 2016 to 6,359 locations by the end of 2017. This resulted in an increase of 633 locations for an additional terminal income of \$164.9 million or a 17.6% increase.

Call to Action #4 (add transition/bed music) [Optional]

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.

Programming Update (Optional)

Last night, I got a direct message on Twitter from one of you playing a slot machine at Harrah's Cherokee in Murphy, North Carolina. Richard from Gainesville, Georgia sent a picture of his winning slots jackpot on a high-limit slot machine called Pinball.

Richard had a \$500 bankroll, which he was playing on a \$25 denomination, 3-credit slot machine for maximum credits. On his last \$75 bet, with only one credit remaining afterward, he spun the reels and landed on three double diamonds in a row for a 2,400-credit jackpot. At \$25 a credit, that's a \$60,000 hand-pay jackpot.

Congratulations, Richard! I was so glad to hear you got the check instead of cash, and that you keep good gambling records for income tax preparation purposes.

On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

Part I of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is not yet determined. I have several ideas, including reviewing casinos, slot machines, and books. I'm sure I'll figure out shortly which I'll do next.

To 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 937-696-0086 to leave a 3-minute or less voicemail. Casino trip reports about slots are also appreciated.

Part II of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast are more brief overviews of the current state of gambling in two U.S. states, territories, or federal district. Next time, I'll be talking to you about the great U.S. states of Indiana and Iowa.

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/e45.

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:

My Professor Slots 2019 ideas are to keep guiding slot machine casino gamblers to success. I'll continue what works with my articles, state-by-state blog series, podcasting, and YouTube channel. There'll be exciting new stuff as well. It's really all about being helpful. Plus, Idaho and Illinois slot machine casino gambling 2018.

156-character description:

My Professor Slots 2019 ideas are to continue what works and add exciting new stuff as well. It's about being helpful. Plus, Idaho and Illinois slots 2018.