



Regulatory Oversight

COMMERCIAL GAMING

Governing Body: The state lottery division is part of the Department of Revenue and is administered by a director. [R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 42-61-3 \(2006\)](#). The governor appoints the director with the advice and consent of the Senate. [R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-61-3 \(2006\)](#). The director has broad authority to promulgate rules and regulations, as needed, to oversee the regulation and operations of the state lottery, VLTs, and table games. [R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-61-4 \(2006\)](#); [R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-61.2-3 \(2010\)](#).



Licensing

COMMERCIAL GAMING

Operator: Rhode Island is home to two casinos, the Twin River Casino Hotel and the Tiverton Casino Hotel. VLTs and table games are permitted at both gaming venues. Operating fees are pursuant to contracts signed between the operators and Rhode Island.

Supplier License: Technology providers are selected by an RFP & Q process.



Taxation

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Gaming Tax Rate: According to the operators' contracts and state regulation, video lottery is taxed in the following manner:

- At Twin River, revenues taken are 71.15 percent to 74 percent, plus \$767,687.
- At Tiverton, revenues taken are 68.85 percent to 74 percent plus \$384,996.

Table game revenue is taxed at a rate of either 17 or 19 percent depending on each casino's total net revenue in relation to the previous fiscal year. If a property's revenue is up from the prior year it pays an additional two percent.

Tax Allocation: The state's portion of gaming revenue is allocated to the state's General Fund. The General Fund is appropriated annually at the direction of the legislature and is used to pay for various state services, including education, public safety programs and healthcare.

Promotional Credits: Twenty percent of the previous year's Net Terminal Income, plus \$1,500,000, may be used as tax-free promotional play.

Withholding Tax on Gambling Winnings: If a casino must withhold for federal purposes, Rhode Island must withhold federal tax withheld multiplied by the Rhode Island personal income tax withholding rate in effect on the date of the payment.



Responsible Gaming

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Funding Requirement: According to the gaming statutes, at least \$200,000 (aggregate) annually must be contributed by the two casinos for responsible gaming programs.

Self-exclusion: Twin River and Tiverton, in cooperation with the state, must offer a player self-exclusion program.

Alcohol use: Complimentary alcoholic drinks are offered at Rhode Island casinos.

Advertising Restrictions: The problem gambling helpline number must be displayed in advertisements.

On-Premise Display Requirement: Problem gambling helpline numbers must be displayed conspicuously on premises.

Restrictions on Minors on the Gambling Premises: There is no statutorily required restriction to keep people under 18 off the gaming floor, however, it is a crime for a casino employee to induce or attempt to induce a person under 18 years old to make a bet.



Other Regulations

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Testing Requirements: VLTs must be approved by the Lottery Commission with the help of independent testing laboratories.

AML Requirements: Under federal U.S. law, commercial casino operators, tribal gaming operators and card clubs are required to comply with various statutes in order to prevent money laundering activities and other financial crimes, including terrorism financing.

Shipping Requirements: Before any gaming equipment is shipped into or out of the state, written authorization from the Director of the Lottery Commission is required.

Credit Offered to Patrons: VLT retailers are permitted to extend credit to players subject to various rules and regulations under R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-61.2-3.2. Among other requirements, VLT retailers must consider a patron's annual income; debt-to-income ratio; prior credit history; average monthly bank balance; and/or level of play. VLT retailers may offer up to \$100,000 in credit to authorized patrons.

Political Contributions: There are no restrictions on political contributions from parties with gaming interests.

Smoking Bans: The state's casinos are exempt from smoking bans.

Cashless Gaming & Other Alternative Payments: Cashless gaming is not currently offered at the state's casinos.



Sports Betting

Authorized Operators: Sports betting in Rhode Island is limited to the state lottery's two casinos.

Mobile/Online: Mobile/online sports betting is legal and launched in September 2019. SportsBook Rhode Island is the official brand/website for online sports betting in Rhode Island.

Taxes and Fees: Rhode Island employs a revenue-sharing model with its casinos. The State of Rhode Island receives 51 percent of sports betting revenue, while the host facilities (Lincoln and Tiverton) each receive 17 percent of the sports betting revenue. Additionally, the town of Lincoln shall be paid an annual flat fee of \$200,000 and the town of Tiverton shall be paid an annual flat fee of \$200,000 in compensation for serving as the host communities for sports wagering.

Amateur Restrictions: Betting on in-state college teams and events is prohibited but wagering on college games generally is allowed.

Tax on Promotional Credits: No. Online sports wagering revenue does not include free play provided by the hosting facility or sports-wagering vendor as authorized by the Division to a player and subsequently "won back" by the hosting facility or sports-wagering vendor, for which the hosting facility or sports-wagering vendor can demonstrate that it or its affiliate has not been reimbursed in cash.

Age Restrictions: Individuals must be at least 18 years of age to participate in retail sports wagering and mobile sports wagering.



Internet Gaming

Authorized Operators: Senate Bill (SB) 948, approved in June 2023, authorizes Bally's Corporation as the state's iGaming platform vendor and iGaming game vendor, through an exclusive agreement with the State Lottery. The legislation also allows for an iGaming Joint Venture between Bally's and IGT.

Licensing: SB 948 authorizes the State Lottery Division of the Department of Revenue to implement, operate, conduct and control iGaming at the Twin River and the Twin River-Tiverton gaming facilities. Through an exclusive agreement with the State Lottery, Bally's Corporation is the state's iGaming platform vendor and iGaming game vendor.

Taxes and Fees: Bally's is required to remit an annual payment to the State Lottery Division of 100 percent of any shortfall of the first \$1m and 50 percent of any shortfall between \$1m and \$2m in net revenue from traditional lottery products, including online games and instant ticket games.

A shortfall in net revenue is the difference between the net revenue in traditional lottery products in any given fiscal year and the net revenue in traditional lottery products in the most recent full fiscal year before the start of iGaming.

Rhode Island



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Games Available: Under SB 948, “iGaming” means “casino gaming, inclusive of online slot games and online table games as defined herein, and made available to players who have reached twenty-one (21) years of age through the use of the Internet through computers, mobile applications on mobile devices, or other interactive devices approved by the Division, which wagers are accepted by a server-based gaming system located at the premises of a hosting facility”.