2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

GAMBLING/VIDEO POKER: Temporarily suspends the payment of video draw poker device operation fees due to the closure of licensed establishments as a result of COVID-19

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To suspend until October 1, 2020, the provisions of R.S. 27:435(A)(5), relative to the
3	payment of device operation fees by owners of video draw poker devices.
4	WHEREAS, R.S. 27:435(A)(5) provides for an operation fee to be paid by owners
5	of video draw poker devices and provides that such fee shall be levied for each video draw
6	poker device placed by the device owner at a licensed establishment; and
7	WHEREAS, depending on the licensed establishment, operation fees vary from two
8	hundred and fifty dollars per device for bars and restaurants and up to one thousand two
9	hundred fifty dollars per device for a race track; and
10	WHEREAS, video draw poker device owners are authorized to pay operational fees
11	quarterly and such quarterly payments are due before the tenth day of the month that begins
12	a new calendar quarter; and
13	WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the state of Louisiana,
14	Governor Edwards issued Proclamation Number JBE 2020-30, which required, for the health
15	and safety of the public, that video draw poker establishments cease operations completely
16	and that truck stops cease all gaming operations from March 17, 2020, until April 13, 2020;
17	and
18	WHEREAS, since March 17, 2020, and until video draw poker establishments are
19	authorized to reopen to customers and devices can be operated, there will be no revenue
20	generated by the operation of video draw poker devices; and

- 1 WHEREAS, operation fees will be due on April 10, 2020, for the second quarter of 2 2020, at a time when video draw poker devices are not allowed to operate, and depending 3 on the success of the measures taken to address the health and safety of the public, the 4 restriction on the operation of video draw poker devices may be further extended; and
- 5 WHEREAS, to help businesses that complied with the governor's executive order 6 financially survive the COVID-19 pandemic for the period of time when video draw poker 7 establishments were required to cease operations and to prevent business owners from 8 having to pay a fee for the operation of video draw poker devices, it is necessary to 9 temporarily suspend operational fees on video draw poker devices.
- 10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby suspends
- 11 the provisions of R.S. 27:435(A)(5).
- 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this suspension shall become effective upon
- 13 adoption of this Resolution and shall extend through September 30, 2020.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 39 Original	2020 Regular Session	Bishop
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Suspends until Oct. 1, 2020, the provisions of R.S. 27:435(A)(5), the payment of device operation fees by owners of video draw poker devices.

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 27:435(A)(5)) provides for an annual fee on video draw poker devices, per device, based on the licensed establishment where the device is located. Provides for the following fees for devices located at a licensed establishment that is:

(1) A restaurant, bar, tavern, cocktail lounge, club, motel, or hotel - \$250.

- (2) A race track \$1,250.
- (3) An offtrack wagering facility \$1,000.
- (4) A qualified truck stop facility \$1,000.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes the payment of operation fees to be made quarterly, due by the tenth day of the first month of each calender quarter.

Suspends present law until Oct. 1, 2020.

(Suspends R.S. 27:435(A)(5))