

# A Bit of History: Nevada Gambling Legalized

*[We are referring to the original legislation  
not the current status of the law.]*

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Citation:

*Statutes of Nevada*  
1931 Nev. Stat. 165  
Assembly Bill No. 98—Mr. Tobin

Popular Name: “Wide Open Gambling Bill”

*CHAP. 99 An Act concerning slot machines; gambling games, and gambling devices; providing for certain license fees and the use of the money obtained therefrom; prohibiting minors from playing and loitering about such games; designating the penalties for violation of the provisions thereof; and other matters properly relating thereto.*

[Approved March 19, 1931]

SECTION 1. “From and after the passage of this act, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association or corporation, either as owner, lessee, or employee, whether for hire or not,

to deal, operate, carry on, conduct, maintain, or expose for play, in the State of Nevada,

any game of faro, monte, roulette, keno, fan-tan, twenty-one, black jack, seven-and-a-half, big injun, klondyke, craps, stud poker, draw poker,

or any banking or percentage game played with cards, dice or any mechanical device or machine,

for money, property, checks, credit, or any representative of value;

or any gambling game in which any person, firm, association or corporation keeping,

conducting, managing or permitting the same to be carried on,

receives, directly or indirectly, any compensation or reward, or any percentage or share of the money or property played,

for keeping, running, carrying on, or permitting the said game to be carried on;

or to play, maintain, or keep any slot machine played for money, for checks or tokens redeemable in money or property, without having first procured a license for the same as hereinafter provided;

And provided further, that no alien, or any person except a citizen of the United States, shall be issued a license,

Or shall directly or indirectly own operate or control any game or device so licensed.”

*(Note: the following sections are not quoted, but simply outlined as to subject matter)*

SECTION 2.

License fees fixed  
County Sheriff to issue

SECTION 3.

County Auditor to prepare, what information to contain  
License not transferable, nor fee refundable

SECTION 4.

Duties of Sheriff

SECTION 5.

25% of fees to State Treasurer  
75% of fees to County where collected

SECTION 6.

Cheating and thieving prohibited

SECTION 7.

License revoked for violating Act

SECTION 8.

Violation is gross misdemeanor

SECTION 9.

Games further defined

SECTION 10.

Social games played for drinks or cigars in private homes not prohibited

SECTION 11.

Penalties for violation  
\$1,000 fine or 6 months in county jail or both

SECTION 12.

Minors prohibited from playing or loitering

SECTION 13.

Owner who permits minor to play guilty of misdemeanor  
License to be posted in plain view

SECTION 14.

Each section of Act construed separately

SECTION 15.

All acts in conflict with this act hereby repealed

SECTION 16

Act becomes effective upon passage and approval