



GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION

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May 24, 2023

To: All Interested Parties

Re: **Cardroom License Moratorium Reinstatement**

For more than two decades, Business and Professions Code sections 19962 and 19963 formed a moratorium on the expansion of controlled gambling, until these statutes expired on January 1, 2023.

On May 22, 2023, Governor Newsom signed [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 341](#) (Chapter 8, Statutes of 2023, Ramos), which reestablishes a moratorium on the expansion of gambling until January 1, 2043.

Specifically, AB 341 reinstates the following provisions from the previous moratorium:

- Prohibits the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) from issuing a State Gambling License for a new cardroom that was not licensed to operate on December 31, 1999, unless an application to operate that cardroom was on file with the Department of Justice prior to September 1, 2000.
- Prohibits local jurisdictions and their voters from passing ordinances that authorize legal gambling, or amending their existing ordinances in a way that would constitute an [expansion of gambling](#).

However, AB 341 authorizes local jurisdictions to amend an ordinance that applies only to cardrooms that operate fewer than 20 tables. These cardrooms may increase their maximum number of tables by up to 10 additional tables above the number of tables operated by the cardroom on January 1, 2023, but only by up to two additional tables in the first year after the ordinance takes effect, and by up to two additional tables every four years thereafter. Pursuant to AB 341, the Commission can only grant the additional tables to eligible cardrooms if the cardrooms are operating all their permitted tables and are current on their payments of all taxes and applicable fees.

Although the provisions of AB 341 do not take effect until January 1, 2024, the bill effectively makes the reinstated moratorium retroactive to the expiration of the previous moratorium on January 1, 2023, through the following provisions:

- AB 341 invalidates and preempts any amendment to or adoption of a local ordinance on or after January 1, 2023, resulting in an expansion of gambling that was not authorized or permitted as of December 31, 2022, or otherwise authorized, as specified.

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- AB 341 prohibits the Commission from approving an application for a State Gambling License for a new cardroom that was not licensed to operate on December 31, 2022, that is pending before the Commission as of January 1, 2024.
- AB 341 invalidates a State Gambling License for a cardroom that was not licensed to operate on December 31, 2022, and that was issued between December 31, 2022, and January 1, 2024.

The Commission has updated the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page on its website, under the “Cardrooms” subcategory, with new information and guidance regarding the moratorium.

If you have any questions, please call the Commission at (916) 263-0700 or email comments@cgcc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kirk

REBECCA KIRK
Deputy Director, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

for

STACEY LUNA BAXTER
Executive Director