

# Rhode Island



## 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 §§ 42-61-1, -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 operates two casinos throughout the state, Twin River Casino Hotel and Tiverton Casino Hotel. Video lottery terminals (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

### COMMERCIAL GAMING

**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:** Ten percent of the previous year's Net Terminal Income plus \$750,000 may be used as tax-free promotional play.

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



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## Responsible Gaming

### COMMERCIAL GAMING

**Funding Requirement:** According to the gaming statutes, at least \$100,000 (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:** Problem gambling helpline number must be displayed on 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

### COMMERCIAL GAMING

**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:** The state may offer up to \$50,000 in credit to authorized patrons.

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



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## 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. Consumers are required to register their sports betting account in-person at one of the two Twin Rivers casinos in the state.

**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. Lincoln and Tiverton each receives \$100,000 for serving as the host communities for legal sports betting.

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

**Official Data Mandate & Integrity Fee:** Regulations do not mandate the use of official league data or provide an integrity fee to sports leagues.