

FRINGE GAMBLING

Sponsor: Senator Karen Mayne

GAMBLING IS PROHIBITED under the Utah Constitution under “any pretense.”

FRINGE GAMBLING allows individuals to insert cash into a slot machine-like device where they push a button in hopes of winning cash prizes.

UNREGULATED GAMBLING is the goal of the multi-million-dollar companies behind these machines. They want to avoid the taxes and regulations that apply in states that allow gambling.

ADVERSE EFFECTS include an increase in thievery, alcoholism, family and financial problems, violence, and community subjection to the predatory gambling business.

THE PROBLEM is that companies have simply redesigned fringe gaming devices to exploit perceived loopholes in the law passed in 2019. This environment has (1) inhibited local law enforcement, and (2) misled businesses and consumers into thinking such devices are legal.

THE SOLUTION

- What the Bill Does -

- **Closes** the current perceived loopholes from the 2019 bill. This includes pretextual “sweepstakes,” “skill-based” games, successive pre-reveal features, and marketing schemes.
- **Modifies** definitions to clarify which types of machines are legal;
- **Enables** communities to adopt stricter gambling ordinances and seize or dispose of gambling debts, proceeds, and fringe gambling devices;
- **Prohibits** the operation of fringe gaming devices;
- **Enhances** criminal penalties for persons who own or operate fringe gaming devices, not for consumers who play them;
- **Grants** players the ability to recoup double damages for money lost; and
- **Distinguishes** illegal fringe gambling devices from valid promotional activities and other legitimate amusement devices.

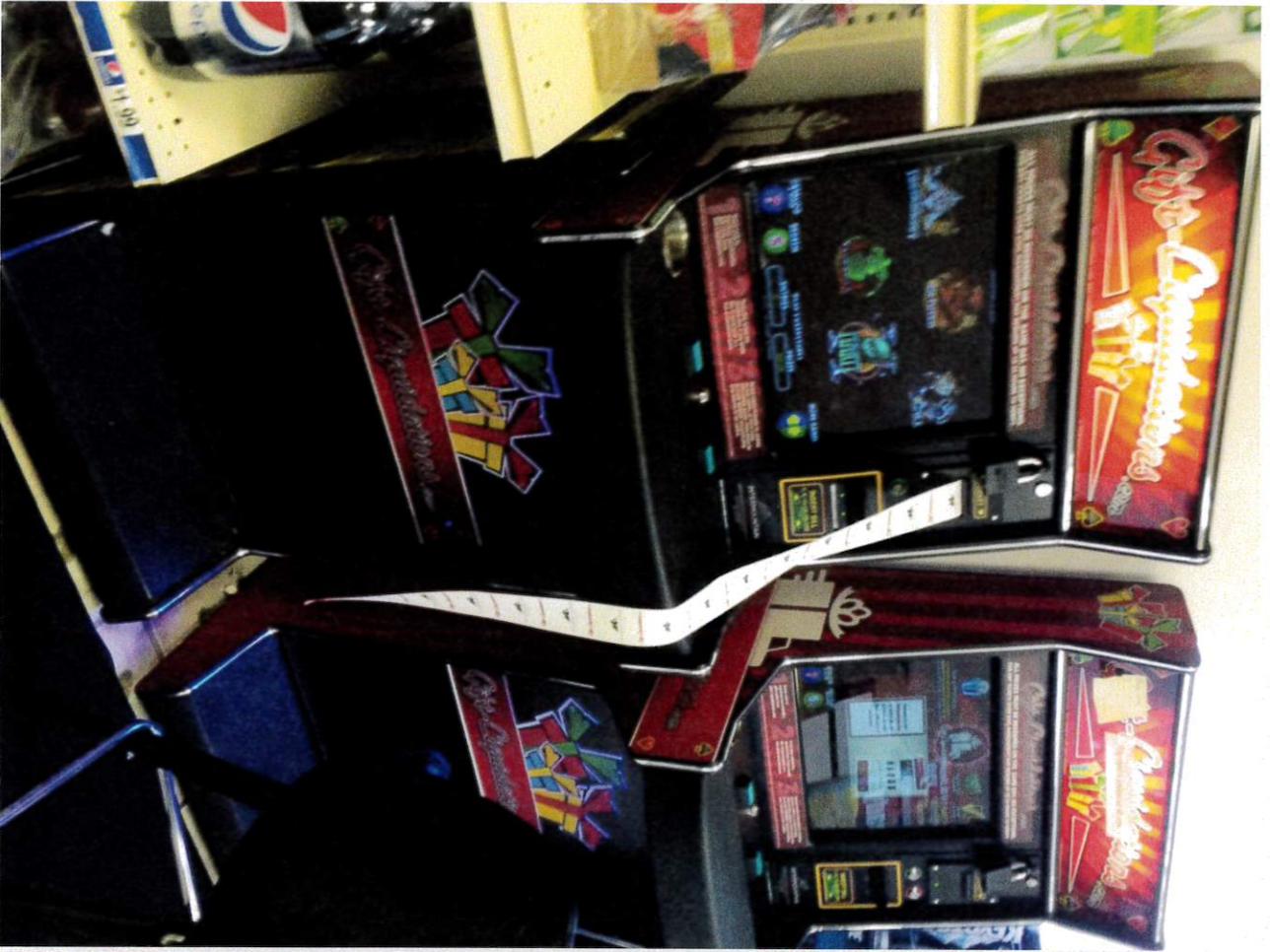
FRINGE GAMBLING MACHINES: A PLAGUE ON OUR COMMUNITY

- **A Fast Road to Addiction.** Individuals who regularly play video gambling devices became addicted three to four times more rapidly than other gamblers.
- **This is the Most Virulent Form of Gambling.** Researchers call modern video gambling “the most virulent strain of gambling in the history of man,” “electronic morphine,” and, most famously, “the crack cocaine of gambling.”
- **Addiction Development.** Modern slot machines are designed to make hundreds of virtual stops that lead to more “near misses” which incentivize players to keep playing.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

- The Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT)
- Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake
- Utah PTA

- Law Enforcement Legislative Committee (LELC)
- Utah Chiefs of Police Association (UCOPA)



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