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(EXTRAORDINARY)

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MONDAY 27TH JULY, 2026

THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE 27TH JULY, 2026 LEGAL SUPPLEMENT – C

BILL No. 12 of 2026

Monday 27th July, 2026

PARLIAMENT OFFICE
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana.

27th July, 2026

The following Bill which will be introduced in the National Assembly is published for general information.

S.E. Isaacs,
Clerk of the National Assembly.



BILL No. 12 of 2026

GAMING AUTHORITY BILL 2026

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SCHEDULE ONE

SCHEDULE TWO

A BILL**Intituled**

AN ACT to provide for the licensing, regulation, supervision, taxation and control of gaming, betting and wagering activities in Guyana; to establish the Gaming Authority of Guyana; to prescribe standards for the operation of casinos, gaming lounges, betting shops, betting shop agents, remote gaming platforms and simulcast, horse and hound racing; to regulate equipment; to promote responsible gaming and establish a Responsible Gaming Fund; implement anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism obligations in the gaming sector; to provide for administrative penalties and enforcement measures; and for connected purposes.

A.D. 2026

Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:-

PART I**PRELIMINARY**

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Gaming Authority Act, 2026.

(2) This Act shall come into operation on a date the Minister may, by Order published in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act –

“agent” means a person authorised by a licensee to conduct gaming or perform any function on behalf of the licensee in accordance with this Act;

“Authority” means the Gaming Authority of Guyana established under section 5;

“beneficial ownership” means ownership by a natural person or persons who ultimately exercise individually or jointly voting rights representing at least ten per cent of the total shares, or otherwise have ownership rights of a legal entity; or ownership by a natural person or persons who ultimately owns or controls a customer or the person on whose behalf a transaction is being conducted and includes those persons who exercise ultimate effective control over a legal person or arrangement;

“bet” means a wager placed on the outcome of an event, contingency, competition, race, sporting event, competition, game or other occurrence in which money, money's worth or any other valuable consideration may be won or lost;

“betting” means the making, negotiating, offering, inviting, receiving, accepting or settling of a bet and includes a bet on, the outcome of a race, sporting event, competition, game or any other event or process;

“betting shop” means premises licensed under this Act for the purpose of receiving or negotiating bets;

“betting shop operator” means a person licenced to operate a betting shop in accordance with this Act;

“Board” means the Board of Directors of the Authority;

“casino” means premises licensed under this Act where casino gaming is lawfully conducted;

“casino operator” means a person licenced to operate a casino in accordance with this Act;

“customer” means a person who participates in, a game of chance, or places a bet or wager on, or otherwise engages in regulated gaming;

“fit and proper person” means a person who satisfies the suitability requirements prescribed by this Act and any regulations made under it;

“foreign gaming service provider” means gaming, betting, wagering or remote gaming services that are offered, provided, directed at, or made available to persons in Guyana by a person who –

(a) is located or established outside Guyana; and

(b) does not hold a licence issued under this Act authorising the provision of such services;

“game of chance” means a game that –

- (a) involves both an element of chance and an element of skill;
- (b) a game that involves an element of chance that can be eliminated by superlative skill;
- (c) a game that is presented as involving an element of chance, but does not include a sport;

“gaming” means playing a game of chance or a game involving an element of chance for money, money's worth or any other valuable consideration;

“gaming equipment” means any machine, device, apparatus, software, technology or other equipment used for gaming;

“gaming lounge” means premises licensed under this Act for the operation of electronic gaming equipment or other gaming authorised by this Act;

“gaming lounge operator” means a person licenced to operate a gaming lounge in accordance with this Act;

“gaming premises” means a premises authorised by a specified premises licence to be used for gaming;

“guest” means a person who has entered into an arrangement with the operator of a hotel or resort forming part of a

licensed casino premises for the provision of accommodation;

“gross gaming revenue” shall be defined as the total money or moneys worth bet or wagered minus winnings paid out to players, it shall exclude promotional credits, coupons, vouchers and any other instrument of value from sums received;

“licence” means a licence granted under this Act;

“licensee” means the holder of a licence issued under this Act;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for gaming under this Act;

“net winnings” means the amount won after deducting the relevant stake, costs, losses, or other permitted deductions from the total return, depending on the legal or contractual context;

“operator” means a person licensed to conduct regulated gaming under this Act;

“premises” includes any land, building, vehicle or place where gaming is conducted;

“prescribed” means prescribed by this Act, regulations made under this Act or any other written law;

“register” means the register maintained by the Authority under this Act;

“regulated gaming activity” means any gaming activity requiring a licence or registration under this Act;

“regulations” means regulations made under this Act;

“remote communication” means communication using the internet, telephone, television, radio or any kind of electronic or other technology for facilitating communication.

“remote gaming” means gaming conducted through remote communication;

“remote gaming operator licensee” means a person licenced to operate a remote gaming in accordance with this Act;

“Simulcast, Horse and Hound Racing” means the broadcast, transmission, receipt or exhibition, by any medium or manner of a live horse or hound race, including but not limited to, a system, network, or programmer which transmits, or receives, television or radio signals by wire, satellite, or otherwise and is exempted from remote gaming;

“Simulcast, Horse and Hound Racing Licensee” means a person licenced to operate simulcast, horse and hound racing gaming services in accordance with this Act;

“supplier” means a person approved by the Authority to manufacture, supply, distribute, repair or maintain gaming equipment;

“table” means a table, cabinet, console, terminal, or other device, whether mechanical, electronic, electromechanical, digital, or otherwise, that is designed or adapted for the conduct of an approved table game in which one or more players participate against the house or against one another under the supervision or control of a dealer, croupier, or an approved automated dealing or game management system, and includes both live and electronic versions, but does not include a gaming equipment.

“wager” means money, money's worth or any other valuable consideration staked on the outcome of a game of chance.

“winnings” means any money, money's worth, prize or other benefit awarded or payable to a person as a consequence of participating in gaming.

Objects of the Act.

3. The objects of this Act are to-

- (a) establish a comprehensive legal framework for the licensing, regulation,

supervision, taxation and control of gaming and wagering activities in Guyana;

- (b) ensure that gaming is conducted honestly, fairly, competitively and free from criminal influence, fraud and exploitation;
- (c) establish the Gaming Authority of Guyana as the principal regulatory authority responsible for the supervision and enforcement of this Act;
- (d) protect children and vulnerable persons from the harms associated with gaming;
- (e) prevent gaming activities from being used for money laundering, the financing of terrorism, proliferation financing or any other unlawful purpose;
- (f) promote, organise and support responsible gaming, social programmes and consumer protection;
- (g) ensure that gaming operators contribute appropriately to public revenue through the payment of taxes, levies, fees and other statutory charges;

- (h) encourage responsible investment in the gaming sector in a manner that promotes tourism, employment and economic development in Guyana;
- (i) establish appropriate technical, operational and integrity standards for gaming;
- (j) facilitate cooperation between the Authority and domestic and international regulatory and law enforcement agencies; and
- (k) provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the regulation of gaming and wagering activities.

Application.

4. (1) This Act applies to every gaming, betting and wagering activity conducted within Guyana.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), this Act applies to

—

- (a) gaming and wagering activities conducted at casinos, gaming lounges, betting shops and other licensed premises;

(b) remote gaming services accessible by persons in Guyana;

(c) gaming equipment used in Guyana;

(d) every person who conducts, manages, controls, facilitates or participates in a regulated gaming activity; and

(e) every person who is required to be licensed or registered under this Act.

(3) Nothing in this Act applies to any lottery conducted in accordance with the Government Lotteries Act.

Cap 80:07.

(4) This Act shall also apply to gaming activities conducted outside Guyana where those activities are directed at, offered, or made available to, persons in Guyana.

PART II

THE GAMING AUTHORITY OF GUYANA

Establishment of the Authority.

5. (1) There is established a body corporate to be known as the Gaming Authority of Guyana which shall be administered by a Governing Board.

Schedule One.

(2) The provisions of Schedule One shall have effect as to the constitution of the Authority.

(3) The Minister shall appoint the members of the Board.

(4) The Authority shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and may –

- (a) sue and be sued in its corporate name;
- (b) acquire, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property;
- (c) enter into contracts; and
- (d) do all such things as bodies corporate may lawfully do.

Functions of the Authority.

6. (1) The Authority's principal function is to permit gaming, in so far as the Authority thinks it is reasonably consistent with pursuit of the objectives of this Act.

(2) For the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Act, the Authority shall –

- (a) grant, vary, suspend and revoke licences under this Act;
- (b) regulate, supervise and monitor all gaming activities carried on in Guyana;
- (c) supervise and inspect all licensed gaming operators, gaming premises and gaming activities;
- (d) establish, develop, maintain and administer the Gaming Platform Information System for the registration and tracking of gaming equipment and other gaming devices;

- (e) approve, certify and register gaming equipment, gaming systems and gaming software before their deployment or use in Guyana;
- (f) establish, publish and enforce technical, operational and integrity standards for gaming equipment, gaming systems and gaming software;
- (g) establish and enforce responsible gaming standards and consumer protection measures;
- (h) implement a risk based supervisory framework consistent with international standards, including the Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force;
- (i) investigate unlawful gaming activities and take enforcement action against unlicensed operators and other persons who contravene this Act;
- (j) monitor compliance with this Act, the regulations, licence conditions and any directions issued under this Act;
- (k) advise the Minister on matters relating to gaming policy, legislative reform and the regulation of the gaming sector;
- (l) cooperate with the Revenue Authority, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Guyana Police Force and any other competent authority in the discharge of its functions under this Act;

- (m) promote public awareness of responsible gaming and the risks associated with excessive gaming;
- (n) collect and administer fees, penalties, charges, levies and other amounts payable under this Act; and
- (o) perform such other functions as are conferred on it by this Act or any other written law.

Powers of the Authority.

7. (1) For the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Act, the Authority may –

- (a) inspect any premises where gaming activities are carried on, whether licensed or unlicensed;
- (b) require any person to produce books, records, accounts, electronic data or any other information relevant to the administration or enforcement of this Act;
- (c) examine, test, inspect and certify any equipment, software, technology and systems used for or intended to be used for gaming;
- (d) seize, detain or secure any gaming equipment or other property reasonably believed to have been used in contravention of this Act;

- (e) issue warning notices, compliance notices, enforcement notices and administrative directions;
- (f) impose administrative penalties authorised under this Act;
- (g) apply to the Court for injunctions, search warrants, production orders or any other order necessary for the exercise of its powers;
- (h) enter into memoranda of understanding or other cooperative arrangements with domestic or foreign regulatory authorities;
- (i) appoint technical experts, consultants, inspectors or other advisers necessary for the discharge of its functions;
- (j) establish and maintain electronic monitoring systems for gaming activities;
- (k) conduct audits, investigations and compliance assessments; and
- (l) do all such things as are reasonably necessary or incidental to the performance of its functions.

(2) An authorised officer exercising a power under subsection (1) shall, where practicable –

- (a) identify himself or herself and produce evidence of his or her authority; and
- (b) notify the occupier or person apparently in charge of the premises of the purpose of the inspection.

unless the authorised officer reasonably believes that doing so would prejudice an investigation or defeat the purpose for which the power is being exercised.

Chief Executive Officer and staff.

8. (1) The Authority shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine, subject to the approval of the Minister.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall –

- (a) be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Authority;
- (b) be the accounting officer of the Authority and shall be responsible for the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Authority.
- (c) implement the decisions and policies of the Authority;
- (d) supervise the officers and employees of the Authority;
- (e) manage the affairs of the Authority in accordance with this Act; and
- (f) perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Authority or under this Act.

(3) The Authority may appoint such officers, inspectors, technical specialists, consultants and other employees as are necessary for the efficient performance of its functions.

(4) Every officer of the Authority shall perform his or her duties in accordance with this Act and any written directions issued by the Chief Executive Officer.

Revenue of Authority.

9. All revenues collected by, or due and payable to, the Authority and all sums payable by way of fees, charges or penalties, otherwise for any application, proceeding or default under this Act mentioned in section 6 shall be paid to the Authority.

Budget of the Authority.

Cap. 73:02

10. (1) The Authority shall prepare and submit for approval its annual budget in accordance with section 79 of the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act.

(2) The Authority is authorised under the general supervision and control of the Minister and the Minister responsible for finance, to retain the fees, charges or penalties collected by it in the discharge of its functions as are necessary to fund the budget for the Authority and the remainder of the fees, charges or penalties collected shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund at earliest convenient periodic intervals as directed by the Minister.

Funds and resources of the Authority.

11. (1) The funds and resources of the Authority shall consist of –

- (a) sums retained by the Authority under section 10(2);

- (b) sums provided to the Authority by or under any appropriation law;
- (c) any property or investment acquired by, or vested in the Authority;
- (d) sums allocated to the Authority from loan funds or grants or donations; and
- (e) all other moneys or property which may in any manner become payable to or vested in the Authority in respect of its functions or by reason of any connected matter.

(2) There shall be paid from the funds of the Authority

—

- (a) the salaries and allowances of the staff of the Authority;
- (b) any other expenses incurred by the Authority in the performance of its functions.

Financial year.

12. (1) The financial year of the Authority shall be the same as the financial year of the Government.

(2) The accounts of the Authority shall be closed at the end of each financial year.

Accounts and audit.

Cap. 73:01

13. The Authority shall keep proper accounts and other records in respect of its operations, and the accounts shall be audited annually by the Auditor General in accordance with the Audit Act.

Annual report.

Cap. 73:02

14. The Authority shall comply with section 80 of the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act in relation to its annual reports and audited financial statements.

PART III

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

Requirement for licence.

15. (1) A person shall not conduct, operate, manage, facilitate, advertise or hold out as carrying on any gaming activity unless that person is the holder of a valid licence granted under this Act.

(2) A person shall not establish or operate any premises for gaming unless the premises are licensed under this Act.

(3) A person shall not possess, install, operate, relocate or deploy a gaming equipment or gaming technology for commercial gaming purposes unless the gaming equipment is—

- (a) registered with the Authority; and
- (b) operated only at approved premises.

(4) A person shall not sell, lease, import, supply or distribute a gaming equipment, gaming technology or associated gaming equipment unless approved under this Act.

(5) A person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not

less than twenty million dollars and not more than one hundred million dollars.

Exempted activities.

16. Section 15 shall not apply to the activities exempted under section 85.

Categories of licences.

17. (1) The Authority may grant the following classes of licences –

- (a) Casino Operator Licence;
- (b) Casino Premises Licence;
- (c) Gaming Lounge Operator Licence;
- (d) Gaming Lounge Premises Licence;
- (e) Betting Shop Operator Licence;
- (f) Betting Shop Premises Licence;
- (g) Betting Shop Agent Licence;
- (h) Remote Gaming Operator Licence;
- (i) Simulcast, Horse and Hound Racing Licence; and
- (j) any other class of licence prescribed by regulations.

(2) A licence granted under subsection (1) authorises the holder to conduct only the gaming activity specified in the licence and subject to the conditions imposed under this Act.

(3) A licence may specify one or more of the following

–

- (a) the name of the licensee;

- (b) the period of the licence;
- (c) the gaming activity to be undertaken;
- (d) the premises to which the licence applies;
- (e) the conditions upon which the licence is granted;
- (f) the facilities to be provided;
- (g) the equipment permitted to be used; and
- (h) any other condition or matter that the Authority considers pertinent.

Schedule Two

(4) The application fee and annual fee applicable to each class of licence shall be prescribed in Schedule Two.

Requirement for registration.

18. (1) Every gaming premises, gaming equipment, gaming device, gaming system, gaming technology and such other matter as may be prescribed shall be registered with the Authority.

(2) The Authority shall issue a certificate of registration in the prescribed form.

(3) A certificate of registration shall remain valid for the period specified by the Authority unless suspended, cancelled or revoked under this Act.

Application for licence.

19. (1) An application for the grant of a licence shall –

- (a) be made to the Authority in the prescribed form:

- (b) be accompanied by the prescribed application fee;
- (c) contain such information as the Authority may require; and
- (d) be accompanied by the documents specified in this Act or the regulations.

(2) The Authority may require an applicant to provide additional information or documents necessary to determine the application.

(3) Where an applicant fails to comply with subsection (2), the Authority may refuse to consider the application until the required information is provided.

Information accompanying application.

20. An applicant shall provide –

- (a) the applicant's name and business address;
- (b) proof of incorporation or registration where the applicant is a body corporate;
- (c) particulars of directors, shareholders, beneficial owners and controllers;
- (d) audited financial statements;
- (e) evidence of the lawful source of funds;
- (f) a business plan;
- (g) an operational plan;
- (h) internal control procedures;
- (i) anti-money laundering and countering financing of terrorism policies;

- (j) responsible gaming policies;
- (k) technical specifications relating to gaming equipment or gaming software; and
- (l) such other information as the Authority may reasonably require.

Fit and proper assessment.

21. (1) Before granting a licence, the Authority shall determine whether the applicant is a fit and proper person.

(2) In determining whether an applicant is a fit and proper person, the Authority shall have regard to –

- (a) the honesty, integrity and reputation of the applicant;
- (b) the competence, experience and qualifications of the applicant;
- (c) the financial standing of the applicant;
- (d) the lawful source of funds;
- (e) any criminal conviction or regulatory sanction;
- (f) the ownership and control structure of the applicant;
- (g) compliance with tax obligations;
- (h) compliance with anti-money laundering legislation; and
- (i) any other matter relevant to the suitability of the applicant.

(3) The Authority may conduct such investigations as it considers necessary for the purposes of this section.

Grant or refusal of licence.

22. (1) Upon consideration of an application, the Authority may –

- (a) grant the licence;
- (b) grant the licence subject to conditions; or
- (c) refuse the application.

(2) Where the Authority refuses an application, it shall provide written reasons for its decision.

(3) A licence granted under this Act shall be in the prescribed form.

Expiration of licence.

23. (1) A licensee may apply to the Authority for a new licence not later than sixty days before the date of expiration of the existing licence.

(2) Every application for a new licence under this Act shall satisfy the conditions set out in this Act in respect of the grant of a licence.

Conditions of licence.

24. (1) Every licence granted under this Act shall be subject to the following conditions –

- (a) compliance with the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act;
- (b) compliance with any condition imposed by the Authority; and

Cap. 10:11

- (c) compliance with any applicable code, standard or direction issued under this Act.

(2) The Authority may, at any time, impose, vary or revoke a condition of a licence where it considers it necessary for the proper regulation of gaming.

(3) Before varying or imposing a condition under subsection (2), the Authority shall give the licensee written notice of the proposed variation and an opportunity to make representations within such period as the Authority may specify.

Variation of licence.

25. (1) The Authority may, on its own initiative or upon application by a licensee, vary a licence or any condition of a licence where it considers it necessary to –

- (a) give effect to this Act or the regulations;
- (b) protect the integrity of gaming;
- (c) promote responsible gaming;
- (d) protect the public interest; or
- (e) give effect to any change in the circumstances of the licensee.

Schedule Two.

(2) An application under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee set out in Schedule Two.

(3) Before varying a licence under subsection (1), the Authority shall give the licensee written notice of the proposed variation and afford the licensee an opportunity to

make written representations within such period as may be specified in the notice.

(4) Where the Authority varies a licence, it shall notify the licensee in writing of the variation and the date on which it takes effect.

Transfer of licence.

26. A licence granted under this Act shall not be transferred.

Surrender of licence.

27. (1) A licensee may surrender a licence by giving not less than thirty days' written notice to the Authority.

(2) The surrender of a licence does not –

- (a) affect any liability incurred before the date of surrender;
- (b) entitle the licensee to a refund of any fee paid under this Act unless otherwise provided by this Act or the regulations;
- (c) prevent the Authority from completing any investigation or taking enforcement action in respect of conduct occurring before the surrender.

Suspension of licence.

28. (1) The Authority may suspend a licence where the licensee –

- (a) contravenes this Act or the regulations;
- (b) breaches a condition of the licence;

Cap. 10:11

- (c) obtained the licence by fraud, misrepresentation or the concealment of a material fact;
- (d) ceases to satisfy the fit and proper person requirements;
- (e) fails to comply with the Anti-money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act;
- (f) fails to pay any fee, penalty, levy, tax or other amount payable under this Act; or
- (g) is otherwise in breach of this Act.

(2) Before suspending a licence, the Authority shall—

- (a) notify the licensee in writing of the proposed suspension and the reasons for it; and
- (b) afford the licensee an opportunity to make representations within such period as the Authority considers reasonable.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply where the Authority is satisfied that an immediate suspension is necessary to protect the public interest, preserve the integrity of gaming or prevent the commission of an offence.

(4) Where a licence is suspended under subsection (3), the Authority shall provide the licensee with written reasons for the suspension as soon as reasonably practicable.

Revocation of licence.

29. (1) The Authority may revoke a licence where –

- (a) the grounds for suspension continue after the expiry of the suspension period;
- (b) the licensee repeatedly contravenes this Act or the regulations;
- (c) the licensee no longer satisfies the fit and proper person requirements;
- (d) the licence was obtained by fraud or material misrepresentation;
- (e) the licensee is convicted of an offence under this Act or any other offence involving fraud, dishonesty, money laundering or organised crime; or
- (f) the Authority is satisfied that revocation is necessary in the public interest.

(2) Before revoking a licence, the Authority shall

- (a) notify the licensee in writing of the proposed revocation and the reasons for it; and
- (b) afford the licensee an opportunity to make representations within such period as the Authority considers reasonable.

(3) Where the Authority revokes a licence, it shall notify the licensee in writing of –

- (a) the reasons for the revocation;
- (b) the effective date of the revocation;
- and
- (c) the right of appeal under this Act.

Automatic cancellation of
licence.

30. A licence shall cease to have effect where –

- (a) the licensee dies, unless otherwise provided by this Act;
- (b) the licensee is dissolved or wound up;
- (c) the licence expires and is not renewed;
- (d) the licence is surrendered; or
- (e) the licence is revoked under this Act.

Replacement licence.

31. (1) A licensee whose licence has been lost, destroyed, defaced or damaged may apply to the Authority for the issue of a replacement licence.

(2) An application under subsection (1) shall –

Schedule Two.

- (a) be made in the prescribed form;
- (b) be accompanied by the prescribed fee as set out in Schedule Two; and
- (c) include such information as the Authority may reasonably require.

(3) The Authority may issue a replacement licence where it is satisfied that the application is justified.

Display of licence.

32. (1) Every licensee shall display the licence certificate issued under this Act in a conspicuous place at the licensed premises.

(2) Where a licence relates to a remote gaming operation, the licence number and such other information as the Authority may require shall be prominently displayed on the remote platform.

(3) A licensee who fails to comply with this section commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than two million dollars and not more than ten million dollars.

Duty to seek the approval of the Authority for material changes.

33. (1) A licensee shall seek the approval of the Authority in writing for any material change that may affect the licence or the licensee.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), a material change includes –

- (a) a change in the ownership or beneficial ownership of the licensee;
- (b) a change in the directors, partners, trustees or other persons responsible for the management of the licensee;
- (c) a change in the registered office or principal place of business of the licensee;

- (d) a change in the gaming premises;
- (e) the commencement of liquidation, receivership, judicial management or any insolvency proceedings;
- (f) the institution of criminal proceedings against the licensee or any director, officer or senior employee for an offence involving fraud, dishonesty, corruption, money laundering or any other indictable offence;
- (g) any change affecting the continued suitability of the licensee as a fit and proper person; or
- (h) any other matter prescribed by the regulations.

(3) A licensee who fails to comply with this section commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than five million dollars and not more than twenty million dollars.

Annual returns.

34. (1) Every licensee shall submit an annual return to the Authority in the prescribed form not later than three months after the end of each financial year.

(2) The annual return shall contain –

- (a) audited financial statements;
- (b) details of gaming revenue;
- (c) taxes and fees paid under this Act;
- (d) details of gaming equipment and gaming software operated by the licensee;

- (e) any material change referred to in section 33;
- (f) a compliance report relating to this Act and the regulations; and
- (g) such other information as the Authority may require.

(3) The Authority may require a licensee to provide additional information relating to the annual return.

Records to be maintained.

35. (1) Every licensee shall maintain complete and accurate books, records and accounts relating to the gaming activity carried on under the licence.

(2) The records referred to in subsection (1) shall include –

- (a) financial records;
- (b) customer transaction records;
- (c) records required under section 67 of this Act;
- (d) records of bets placed and winnings paid;
- (e) records required under the Anti-money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act;
- (f) records relating to gaming equipment;
- (g) employee records relevant to the conduct of gaming activities; and

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(h) any other records required by the Authority.

(3) The records shall be retained for not less than seven years from the date on which they are created or for such longer period as may be required by any written law.

Inspection of records.

36. (1) The Authority may, at any reasonable time, require a licensee to produce any record required to be maintained under this Act.

(2) A licensee shall provide all reasonable assistance to an authorised officer conducting an inspection under this section.

(3) A person who –

- (a) refuses to produce a record required under this Act;
- (b) knowingly produces a false or misleading record; or
- (c) obstructs an authorised officer in the exercise of powers under this section,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than five million dollars and not more than twenty million dollars.

Duty to comply with licence conditions.

37. Every licensee shall comply with –

- (a) this Act;

- (b) the regulations;
- (c) every condition attached to the licence;
- (d) every lawful direction issued by the Authority under this Act; and
- (e) every applicable code, standard or technical requirement issued under this Act.

Fees.

38. (1) A fee paid under this Act is not refundable except as expressly provided by this Act or the regulations.

(2) All annual fees, gaming equipment fees and table fees listed in Schedule Two shall be subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation of the Consumer Price Index as of the preceding year as published by the Bank of Guyana.

Register of licences.

39. (1) The Authority shall establish and maintain a Register of Licences issued under this Act.

(2) The Register shall contain –

- (a) the name of every licensee;
- (b) the class of licence;
- (c) the licensed premises;
- (d) the period of validity of the licence;
- (e) any suspension, revocation or surrender of the licence; and
- (f) such other particulars as the Authority considers appropriate.

(3) The Register may be maintained in electronic form.

(4) The Authority may make the Register available for public inspection subject to any written law relating to confidential information and the protection of personal data.

Appeals against
licensing
decisions.

40. (1) A person aggrieved by a decision of the Authority under this Part may, within twenty-eight days after being notified of the decision, appeal in writing to the Minister.

(2) Before determining an appeal, the Minister shall afford the appellant and the Authority an opportunity to be heard.

(3) The Minister may-

- (a) affirm the decision of the Authority;
- (b) vary the decision;
- (c) set aside the decision; or
- (d) remit the matter to the Authority with such directions as the Minister considers appropriate.

(4) The Minister shall give written reasons for the determination of the appeal.

Payment of
winnings.

41. (1) A Licensee shall pay winnings only in accordance with this Act and any regulations made under it.

(2) A Licensee shall maintain accurate records of all payments made to customers.

(3) A payment shall not be made anonymously where customer identification is required under this Act.

Annual Gaming
Report.

42. (1) The Authority shall prepare an Annual Gaming Report in respect of each calendar year.

(2) The Report shall include –

- (a) the number and classes of licences issued, suspended and revoked;
- (b) statistics relating to gaming activities;
- (c) enforcement and compliance activities undertaken by the Authority;
- (d) responsible gaming initiatives;
- (e) public awareness and education programmes;
- (f) administrative penalties imposed;
- (g) such financial and statistical information as the Authority considers appropriate; and
- (h) any recommendations for legislative or policy reform.

(3) The Authority shall submit the Annual Gaming Report to the Minister not later than four months after the end of each calendar year.

(4) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable after receiving the Report, lay it before the National Assembly.

PART IV

CASINO OPERATOR LICENCES AND CASINO PREMISES LICENCES

Prohibition on
operating a casino
without a licence.

43. (1) A person shall not establish, operate, manage or conduct a casino unless -

- (a) the person holds a valid Casino Operator Licence granted under this Act;
- (b) the premises from which the casino is operated-
 - (i) are the subject of a valid Casino Premises Licence; and
 - (ii) the premises from which the casino is operated is a hotel or resort complex that consists of a minimum of one hundred and fifty rooms for accommodation of guests.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a

fine of not less than fifty million dollars and not more than one hundred million dollars.

Casino Operator
Licence.

44. (1) A Casino Operator Licence authorises the holder to operate a casino in accordance with this Act and the conditions of the licence.

(2) A Casino Operator Licence does not authorise the holder to operate a casino from premises other than the premises specified in the corresponding Casino Premises Licence.

(3) A licence issued under subsection (1) shall be for a period of ten years from the date of issuance.

(4) A Casino Operator Licence shall be subject to such conditions as may be imposed by the Authority under this Act.

Casino Premises
Licence.

45. (1) A Casino Premises Licence authorises the use of specified premises for the conduct of casino gaming.

(2) A separate Casino Premises Licence shall be required for each casino premises.

(3) A licence issued under subsection (1) shall be for a period of ten years from the date of issuance.

(4) A Casino Premises Licence shall not be transferred to another premises without the prior written approval of the Authority.

Eligibility for a
Casino Operator
Licence.

46. (1) The Authority shall not grant a Casino Operator Licence unless it is satisfied that the applicant –

- (a) is a fit and proper person;
- (b) has the financial capacity to establish and operate a casino;
- (c) has demonstrated the lawful source of the funds to be invested in the casino;
- (d) satisfies the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
- (e) has complied with any other requirement prescribed by this Act.

(2) Where the applicant is a body corporate, the requirements of subsection (1) shall apply to –

- (a) every director;
- (b) every beneficial owner;
- (c) every shareholder holding the prescribed interest;
- (d) every officer responsible for the management of the casino; and
- (e) every other person prescribed by the Authority.

Casino premises
requirements.

47. (1) The Authority shall not grant a Casino Premises
Licence unless it is satisfied that the premises –

- (a) comply with all applicable written laws;
- (b) are suitable for the conduct of casino gaming;
- (c) satisfy the security requirements prescribed by this Act or the regulations;
- (d) satisfy the surveillance requirements prescribed by this Act or the regulations;
- (e) comply with the technical and operational standards established by the Authority;
- (f) is a hotel or resort complex that consists of a minimum of one hundred and fifty rooms allocated for accommodation by guests;
- (g) holding a minimum rating prescribed by regulations; and
- (h) satisfy any other requirement prescribed under this Act.

(2) The Authority may inspect any proposed casino premises before determining an application.

Regional limitation
on casino licences.

48. (1) The Authority shall not grant a Casino Operator Licence and Casino Premises Licence in excess of the maximum number prescribed for an administrative region.

(2) The Minister may, after consultation with the Authority, prescribe the maximum number of Casino Operator

Licences and Casino Premises Licences that may be granted in each administrative region.

(3) In determining whether to grant a Casino Operator Licence and Casino Premises Licence, the Authority shall consider –

- (a) the location of the proposed casino;
- (b) the number of casinos already operating within the region;
- (c) the economic and tourism benefits of the proposed casino;
- (d) public safety and security;
- (e) the social impact of the proposed casino; and
- (f) any other matter the Authority considers relevant.

Casino licences
fees.

49. (1) An applicant for a Casino Operator Licence and Casino Premises Licence shall pay the application fee and annual fee as specified in Schedule Two.

Schedule Two

(2) A holder of the Casino Licences shall pay the annual gaming equipment fee and annual table fee prescribed in Schedule Two.

Duties of casino
operator.

50. A casino operator shall –

- (a) operate the casino in accordance with this Act;

- (b) maintain effective systems of internal control;
- (c) implement surveillance and security measures approved by the Authority;
- (d) ensure compliance with responsible gaming measures;
- (e) comply with all anti-money laundering obligations imposed by law;
- (f) maintain accurate records of gaming activities;
- (g) permit inspections by authorised officers; and
- (h) comply with any lawful direction issued by the Authority.

Restriction on
relocation of
casino.

51. A casino operator shall not relocate a casino to another premises without first obtaining –

- (a) the written approval of the Authority;
and
- (b) a Casino Premises Licence in respect of the new premises.

Closure of casino.

52. (1) A casino operator intending to cease operations shall notify the Authority in writing not less than ninety days before the proposed closure.

(2) The notice shall include –

- (a) the proposed date of closure;

- (b) arrangements for the payment of outstanding winnings;
- (c) arrangements for the preservation of records; and
- (d) such other information as the Authority may require.

PART V

GAMING LOUNGES

Requirement for
Gaming Lounge
Operator and
Gaming Lounge
Premises Licences.

53. (1) A person shall not establish, operate, manage or conduct a gaming lounge unless -

- (a) the person holds a valid Gaming Lounge Operator Licence granted under this Act; and
- (b) the premises from which the gaming lounge is operated is licenced by the Authority.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than fifty million dollars and not more than one hundred million dollars.

Gaming Lounge
Operator and
Premises Licences.

54. (1) A Gaming Lounge Licence authorises the holder to operate a gaming lounge in accordance with this Act and the conditions of the licence.

(2) A Gaming Lounge Licence authorises only the gaming activities specified in the licence.

(3) A separate licence shall be required for each gaming lounge operated by a Gaming Lounge Operator Licensee.

Fixed premises.

55. (1) A Gaming Lounge Premises Licence shall be granted only in respect of fixed premises approved by the Authority.

(2) A gaming lounge premises shall not be relocated without the prior written approval of the Authority.

Limitation on
gaming lounge
licences.

56. (1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Authority, prescribe the maximum number of Gaming Lounge Licences that may be granted within an administrative region.

(2) In determining an application, the Authority shall have regard to the prescribed limit.

Gaming Lounge
Premises
requirements.

57. The Authority shall not grant a Gaming Lounge Premises Licence unless satisfied that the premises –

- (a) comply with this Act and any other applicable written law;
- (b) satisfy the security and surveillance requirements prescribed under this Act;
- (c) are suitable for the conduct of gaming activities authorised by the licence; and

(d) comply with any standards prescribed by the Authority.

Gaming Lounge
Licences fees.

58. (1) An applicant for the Gaming Lounge Licences shall pay the application fees prescribed in Schedule Two.

Schedule Two

(2) A holder of the Gaming Lounge Licences shall pay the annual licences fee prescribed in Schedule Two.

(3) A holder of the Gaming Lounge Licences shall pay the annual gaming equipment fee and annual table fee prescribed in Schedule Two.

Duties of a Gaming
Lounge Licensee.

59. A Gaming Lounge Licensee shall –

- (a) comply with this Act, the regulations and the conditions of the licence;
- (b) maintain accurate records of gaming activities;
- (c) permit inspections by authorised officers;
- (d) comply with the obligations imposed by the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act.; and
- (e) comply with any lawful direction issued by the Authority.

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PART VI

BETTING SHOP OPERATOR LICENCE, BETTING SHOP PREMISES LICENCE, BETTING SHOP AGENT

**LICENCE REMOTE GAMING OPERATOR
LICENCE, SIMULCAST AND HORSE AND HOUND
RACING LICENCE**

Requirement for a
Betting Shop
Operator Licence.

60. (1) A person shall not establish, operate or manage a betting shop premises unless the person is the holder of a valid Betting Shop Operator Licence granted under this Act.

(2) Every betting shop operator shall operate only from a fixed premises approved by the Authority.

Schedule Two

(3) An applicant for a Betting Shop Premises Licence and Betting Shop Operator Licence shall pay the fees specified in Schedule Two.

(4) A person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than fifty million dollars and not more than one hundred million dollars.

Requirement for a
Betting Shop
Premises Licence.

61. (1) Every betting shop premises shall be Licenced with the Authority.

(2) A separate Betting Shop Premises Licence shall be required for every location operated by a licensee.

Schedule Two

(3) An applicant seeking a Licence under subsection (1) shall pay the fees specified in Schedule Two.

Betting Shop
Operator and
Premises Licences.

62. (1) A Betting Shop Operator Licence and a Betting Shop Premises Licence authorises the holder to receive or negotiate bets in accordance with this Act and the conditions of the licence.

(2) The Betting Shop Operator licence shall specify

—

- (a) the authorised gaming activities;
- (b) the period of validity of the licence; and
- (c) any conditions imposed by the Authority.

(3) The Betting Shop Premises licence shall specify

—

- (a) the approved premises;
- (b) the period of validity of the licence; and
- (c) any conditions imposed by the Authority.

Schedule Two.

(4) An applicant for a Betting Shop Operator and Betting Shop Premises Licences shall pay the fees specified in Schedule Two.

(5) A holder of the Betting Shop Licences shall pay the annual gaming equipment fee and annual table fee prescribed in Schedule Two.

Limitation on
Betting Shop
Premises Licences.

63. (1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Authority, prescribe the maximum number of Betting Shop

Premises Licences that may be granted within an administrative region.

(2) In determining an application, the Authority shall have regard to the prescribed limit.

Betting Shop Agent
Licence.

64. (1) A Licenced Betting Shop Operator may appoint an individual to manage, operate or conduct transactions at a Licenced Betting Shop Premises, and such individual must hold a valid Betting Shop Agent Licence.

(2) Every betting shop agent shall –

- (a) satisfy the prescribed eligibility requirements;
- (b) operate only from approved premises; and
- (c) comply with this Act and the conditions imposed by the Authority.

Schedule Two

(3) An applicant for a Betting Shop Agent Licence shall pay the fees specified in Schedule Two.

Remote Gaming
Licence.

65. (1) A person shall not provide remote gaming services to persons in Guyana unless the person holds a Remote Gaming Operator Licence granted under this Act.

(2) A Remote Gaming Operator Licence authorises only the remote gaming activities specified in the licence.

Schedule Two

(3) The Authority may impose conditions relating to technology, cybersecurity, customer protection, responsible gaming and any other matter prescribed by the Authority.

(4) An applicant for a Remote Gaming Operator Licence shall pay the fees specified in Schedule Two.

Simulcast, Horse and Hound
Racing Licence.

66. (1) A person shall not provide simulcast, horse and hound racing gaming services to persons in Guyana unless the person holds a Simulcast, Horse and Hound Racing Licence granted under this Act.

(2) A Simulcast, Horse and Hound Racing Licence authorises only the activities specified in the licence and is exempted from remote gaming services.

(3) The Authority may impose conditions relating to technology, cybersecurity, customer protection and responsible gaming.

(4) An applicant for a Simulcast, Horse and Hound Racing Licence shall pay the fees specified in Schedule Two.

Schedule Two

PART VII

REPORTING, RECORD KEEPING AND CUSTOMER DUE DILIGENCE

Customer
identification.

67. (1) A licensee shall not permit a person to place a bet, receive winnings or conduct any transaction prescribed

under this Act unless the person's identity has been verified in accordance with this section.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a licensee shall obtain and verify –

- (a) the full name of the customer;
- (b) the national identification number, passport number or such other government issued identification as may be approved by the Authority;
- (c) the taxpayer identification number;
- (d) the residential address of the customer; and
- (e) such other information as may be prescribed.

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(3) The information obtained under this section shall be recorded and retained in accordance with this Act and the Anti-money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act.

(4) A licensee shall verify the information obtained under subsection (2) in the manner prescribed by the Authority.

(5) A licensee shall not pay winnings unless satisfied that the person claiming the winnings is the person who placed the bet or is otherwise lawfully entitled to receive the winnings.

Record of bets and
winnings.

68. (1) Every licensee shall maintain an electronic record of –

- (a) every bet placed;
- (b) every winning paid;
- (c) every cancelled or voided bet; and
- (d) every transaction prescribed by the Authority.

(2) The record shall include –

- (a) the date and time of the transaction;
- (b) the amount of the bet or wager;
- (c) the amount of the winnings, if any;
- (d) the identity of the customer in accordance with section 67; and
- (e) such other particulars as may be prescribed.

(3) The records maintained under this section shall be made available to the Authority and the Revenue Authority upon request.

Anonymous
gaming prohibited.

69. (1) A licensee who –

- (a) accepts a bet without first complying with section 67;
- (b) pays winnings without verifying the identity of the person entitled to receive the winnings;
- (c) fails to obtain or verify the information required under section 67; or
- (d) knowingly records false or misleading customer information.

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than fifty million dollars and not more than one hundred million dollars.

(2) A licensee who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable –

- (a) to an administrative penalty not exceeding fifty million dollars for each contravention; and
- (b) where the contravention is repeated, serious or wilful, to an administrative penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty million dollars, and the Authority may suspend or revoke the licence.

(3) Each bet accepted in contravention of this section constitutes a separate offence.

Reporting of bets
and winnings.

70. (1) Every licensee shall submit to the Revenue Authority and the Authority, in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed period, a report containing –

- (a) every bet or wager received;
- (b) every winning paid;
- (c) the taxes deducted, withheld or collected under this Act;
- (d) the information obtained under section 67; and
- (e) such other information as may be prescribed.

(2) Every financial institution, payment service provider, electronic money institution, credit card issuer, debit card issuer, payment gateway, digital wallet provider, virtual asset service provider and any other prescribed payment intermediary shall submit to the Revenue Authority and the Authority, in the prescribed form and within the prescribed time –

- (a) the identity of the customer;
- (b) the amount of each transaction;
- (d) the foreign gaming service provider;
- (e) the date of the transaction;
- (f) the information obtained under section 67;
- and
- (g) such additional information as may be prescribed.

(3) A report submitted under subsections (1) and (2) shall be in the form approved by the Authority in consultation with the Revenue Authority.

(4) A licensee or any entity involved in the transfer of funds who –

- (a) fails to submit a report required under this section;
- (b) submits a report after the prescribed period;
- (c) knowingly submits a false or misleading report;
- (d) omits a material particular from a report;
- or

(e) fails to comply with any requirement of this section,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than one hundred million dollars and not more than two hundred and fifty million dollars.

(5) A licensee or any entity involved in the transfer of funds who commits an offence under subsection (3) is liable –

- (a) to an administrative penalty not exceeding fifty million dollars; and
- (b) where the contravention is serious, repeated or wilful, to an administrative penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty million dollars, and the Authority may suspend or revoke the licence.

(6) The imposition of an administrative penalty under this section does not relieve the licensee of the obligation to submit the report.

False or misleading documents and records.

71. (1) A person shall not, in connection with an application, return, report, record or other document required under this Act –

- (a) provide information that the person knows to be false or misleading in a material particular;
- (b) omit a material particular;
- (c) alter, conceal, destroy or falsify any record required to be maintained under this Act; or

(d) submit or produce a document that the person knows to be false or misleading.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than twenty million dollars and not more than fifty million dollars.

(3) A person who commits an offence under subsection (2) is liable –

(a) in the case of an individual, to an administrative penalty not exceeding fifty million dollars; or

(b) in the case of a licensee, to an administrative penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty million dollars, and the Authority may suspend or revoke the licence.

PART VIII

GAMING EQUIPMENT

Registration of
gaming equipment.

72. (1) A person shall not possess, install, operate or make available for gaming any gaming equipment unless the gaming equipment is registered with the Authority.

(2) An application for the registration of a gaming equipment shall –

Schedule Two

- (a) be made in the prescribed form;
- (b) pay the prescribed fee as specified in Schedule Two.
- (c) identify the gaming equipment;
- (d) specify the premises at which the gaming equipment is to be operated; and
- (e) contain such other information as the Authority may require.

(3) The Authority may register a gaming equipment where it is satisfied that the requirements of this Act have been complied with.

(4) Upon registration, the Authority shall assign a unique registration number to the gaming equipment and enter the prescribed particulars in the Register of Gaming Equipment.

Certificate of registration.

73. (1) Where a gaming equipment is registered under section 72, the Authority shall issue a Certificate of Registration.

(2) The Certificate of Registration shall –

- (a) identify the gaming equipment;
- (b) identify the registered owner;
- (c) specify the approved premises at which the gaming equipment may be operated;
- (d) specify the period of validity of the registration; and

(e) contain such other particulars as the Authority considers necessary.

(3) The Certificate of Registration shall be kept at the approved premises and produced for inspection upon request by an authorised officer.

Schedule Two.

(4) A Certificate of Registration shall be issued in accordance with this section and upon the payment of the fee specified in Schedule Two.

Identification of gaming equipment.

74. (1) Every registered gaming equipment shall display an identification device approved by the Authority.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Authority may require a gaming equipment to display –

- (a) an identification instrument;
- (b) a registration label;
- (c) a security seal; or
- (d) any other identification device prescribed by the Authority.

(3) A person shall not remove, alter, deface or interfere with an identification device affixed under this section except with the prior written approval of the Authority.

(4) A person who contravenes subsection (3) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than fifty million dollars and not more than one hundred million dollars.

Deployment of
gaming equipment.

75. (1) A registered gaming equipment shall not be deployed or operated at any premises unless the deployment has first been approved by the Authority.

(2) A separate approval shall be required for each gaming equipment deployed at a premises.

(3) An application for approval under subsection (1) shall –

- (a) identify the gaming equipment;
- (b) identify the premises at which the gaming equipment is proposed to be deployed; and
- (c) contain such other information as the Authority may require.

(4) A person who deploys a gaming equipment in contravention of this section commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than five million dollars and not more than ten million dollars.

Relocation
of gaming
equipment.

76. (1) A registered gaming equipment shall not be relocated from one approved premises to another without the prior written approval of the Authority.

(2) An application for approval under subsection (1) shall –

Schedule Two

- (a) identify the gaming equipment;
- (b) identify the proposed premises; and
- (c) be accompanied by the fee set out in Schedule Two.

(3) Where the Authority approves the relocation of a gaming equipment, it shall amend the Register of Gaming Equipment accordingly.

(4) A person who relocates a gaming equipment without the approval of the Authority commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than fifty million dollars and not more than one hundred million dollars.

Technical standards for gaming equipment.

77. (1) Every gaming equipment operated under this Act shall comply with the technical standards prescribed by the Authority.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Authority may specify standards relating to –

- (a) security and integrity;
- (b) software and hardware;
- (c) game fairness;
- (d) accounting and auditing functions;
- (e) communication systems;

- (f) return to player requirements; and
- (g) such other technical requirements as may be necessary for the proper regulation of gaming equipment.

(3) A person shall not operate a gaming equipment that does not comply with the standards prescribed under this section.

(4) A person who contravenes subsection (3) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than fifty million dollars and not more than one hundred million dollars.

Inspection and
testing of gaming
equipment.

78. (1) The Authority may, at any reasonable time, inspect or test a gaming equipment to determine whether it complies with this Act.

(2) A licensee shall provide an authorised officer with such access and assistance as may be reasonably required for the purposes of an inspection or test.

(3) Where the Authority determines that a gaming equipment does not comply with this Act, it may –

- (a) direct that the gaming equipment be withdrawn from operation;

(b) suspend or cancel its registration; or

(c) require the defect to be remedied within a specified period.

Schedule Two.

(4) A licensee shall pay the fee specified in Schedule Two for the inspection or testing of a gaming equipment.

(5) A licensee who fails to comply with a direction issued under subsection (3) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than fifty million dollars and not more than one hundred million dollars.

Removal or
disposal of gaming
equipment.

79. (1) A registered gaming equipment shall not be removed from service, disposed of, destroyed or otherwise decommissioned without the prior written approval of the Authority.

(2) The Authority may require the surrender of the Certificate of Registration before approving the removal or disposal or decommissioning of the gaming equipment.

(3) The Authority shall amend the register of gaming equipment to reflect the removal or disposal of the gaming equipment.

PART IX**RESPONSIBLE GAMING**

Responsible
gaming
programme.

80. (1) Every licensee shall establish, implement and maintain a responsible gaming programme approved by the Authority.

(2) A person who has not attained the age of eighteen years shall not –

- (a) participate in any gaming;
- (b) place or attempt to place a bet;
- (c) enter a premises where gaming is conducted;
- (d) collect any winnings arising from a gaming activity; or
- (e) otherwise participate in any gaming regulated under this Act.

(3) A person shall not knowingly permit a person under the age of eighteen years to engage in any gaming activity prohibited under subsection (2).

(4) A person shall take all reasonable steps to verify the age of a person before permitting that person to participate in gaming where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person is under the age of eighteen years.

(5) A person who contravenes subsection (3) commits an offence and is liable, upon summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding twenty million dollars..

(6) A person under the age of eighteen who contravenes subsection (2) shall not commit an offence, but may be removed from the gaming premises by a licensee or an authorised officer.

(7) A responsible gaming programme shall include measures to –

- (a) promote responsible gaming;
- (b) minimise gaming related harm;
- (c) prevent underage gaming;
- (d) identify and assist persons displaying signs of problem gaming;
- (e) provide information on counselling, treatment and support services;
- (f) promote and support social programmes;
- (g) comply with any advertising and promotional standards issued by the Authority; and
- (h) comply with any responsible gaming standards issued by the Authority.

(8) A licensee shall ensure that all employees engaged in gaming activities receive training in responsible gaming practices.

Establishment of
Special
Responsible
Gaming Fund.

81. (1) There is established a fund to be known as the Special Responsible Gaming Fund.

(2) The Fund shall be separate and distinct from the funds of the Authority.

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(3) The Fund shall consist of taxes paid into the Fund under the Tax Act.

(4) Monies collected under subsection (3) shall be used exclusively for –

- (a) public education and awareness programmes;
- (b) research into gaming related harm;
- (c) prevention initiatives;
- (d) treatment and counselling services;
- (e) social programmes;
- (f) training programmes; and
- (g) such other purposes as may be approved by the Minister on the recommendation of the Authority.

(5) The Governing Board of the Authority shall be responsible for the administration and management of the Fund.

Cap. 73:02

(6) The Authority shall prepare and submit for approval its annual budget in accordance with section 79 of the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act.

(7) The Authority shall comply with section 80 of the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act in relation to its annual reports and audited financial statements.

PART X

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

Administrative
penalties.

82. (1) Where the Authority is satisfied that a licensee has contravened this Act, the regulations or a condition of a licence, it may impose an administrative penalty in accordance with this Act.

(2) Before imposing an administrative penalty under subsection (1), the Authority shall –

- (a) notify the licensee in writing of the alleged contravention;
- (b) specify the proposed administrative penalty;

- (c) state the reasons for the proposed administrative penalty; and
- (d) afford the licensee an opportunity to make written representations within such period as may be specified in the notice.

(3) In determining whether to impose an administrative penalty, the Authority shall have regard to –

- (a) the nature and seriousness of the contravention;
- (b) whether the contravention was deliberate or repeated;
- (c) any previous contraventions by the licensee;
- (d) any loss or prejudice suffered by customers or the public; and
- (e) any other matter the Authority considers relevant.

(4) An administrative penalty imposed under this section shall not exceed the maximum penalty prescribed under this Act.

(5) The imposition of an administrative penalty does not prevent the institution of criminal proceedings where the conduct constitutes an offence.

Payment and
recovery of
administrative
penalties.

83. (1) A licensee on whom an administrative penalty is imposed shall pay the penalty within thirty days after the date of service of the notice imposing the penalty.

(2) Where a licensee fails to pay an administrative penalty within the period specified in subsection (1), the Authority may –

- (a) suspend the licence;
- (b) recover the penalty as a civil debt due to the Authority; or
- (c) take such other enforcement action as is authorised under this Act.

(3) The payment of an administrative penalty does not relieve the licensee of the obligation to remedy the contravention.

PART XI

MISCELLANEOUS

Offences.

84. (1) Subject to section 85 and without limiting section 16, a person shall not knowingly participate in gaming

- (a) conducted at premises that are not licensed under this Act; or
- (b) provided through remote communication by a person who does not hold a Remote Gaming Operator Licence under this Act.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than two million dollars and not more than ten million dollars.

Exempted
categories of
gaming.

85. (1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Authority, by regulations prescribe classes of gaming that are exempt from the requirement to hold a licence under this Act.

(2) Regulations made under subsection (1) may prescribe conditions subject to which an exemption applies.

(3) Without limiting subsection (1), regulations may provide for the exemption of –

- (a) charitable lotteries;
- (b) charitable raffles;
- (c) promotional competitions;
- (d) sweepstakes conducted in connection with approved sporting events, including horse racing; and
- (e) any other gaming activity prescribed by regulations.

Foreign gaming
service provider
settlement fee.

86. (1) Every financial institution, payment service provider, electronic money institution, credit card issuer, debit card issuer, payment gateway, digital wallet provider, virtual asset service provider and any other prescribed payment intermediary shall impose a settlement fee on every transaction processed involving a foreign gaming service provider.

(2) The settlement Fee shall be thirty per cent of the gross amount of the transaction and shall apply to –

- (c) every payment, transfer, deposit or other remittance made by a customer in Guyana to a foreign gaming service provider; and
- (d) every payment, transfer, remittance or credit representing gaming winnings or other gaming proceeds received by a customer in Guyana from a foreign remote gaming service provider.

(3) The settlement Fee shall be deducted by the payment intermediary at the time the transaction is processed.

(4) Every payment intermediary shall disclose the settlement fee separately on the customer's transaction record or account statement.

(5) A payment intermediary shall not waive, reduce or refund the settlement Fee except in such circumstances as may be prescribed.

(6) A payment intermediary that fails to impose the settlement Fee commits an offence and is liable, on summary conviction –

- (a) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding twenty-five million dollars; and
- (b) in the case of an individual, to a fine not less than two million and not more than five hundred thousand dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both.

Regulations.

87. (1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Authority, make regulations for giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), regulations may provide for –

- (a) application forms and procedures;
- (b) gaming equipment standards and technical specifications;
- (c) the registration and certification of gaming equipment;
- (d) return to Player requirements;
- (e) customer identification and verification procedures;
- (f) reporting requirements;
- (g) responsible gaming standards;
- (h) codes of practice;
- (i) inspections and investigations;
- (j) administrative procedures;

(k) anything required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; and

(l) any other matter necessary for carrying this Act into effect.

(3) Regulations made under this section may prescribe administrative penalties not exceeding the limits prescribed under this Act.

Amendment of the
Schedule.

Schedule
Two

88. (1) The Minister may, by order, amend Schedule Two.

(2) An Order made under this section shall be subject to negative resolution of the National Assembly.

Repeal.
Cap. 9:02

89. The Gambling Prevention Act is repealed.

Savings and
transitional
provisions.

90. (1) On the commencement of this Act, all property, assets, rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the Gaming Authority established under the Gambling Prevention Act vest in the Authority established under this Act.

(2) Every licence, registration, permit, approval or authorisation lawfully issued under an enactment repealed by this Act and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue in force until its expiry unless sooner suspended, revoked or replaced under this Act.

(3) Every application, investigation or proceeding commenced before the commencement of this Act may be

continued and completed as if it had been commenced under this Act.

(4) Every person employed by the former Authority immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue in employment with the Authority established under this Act on terms and conditions that are no less favourable until otherwise lawfully varied.

Consequential
amendments.

Cap. 80:01

91. (1) The Tax Act is amended as follows –

- (a) by repealing section 9;
- (b) by substituting for section 10(1)(b) the following–

(b) at the rate of –

“(i) fourteen percent on the gross value of every bet placed by a customer and on every prize or net winnings paid to a customer by a betting shop operator or gaming lounge operator; and

(ii) thirty percent on the gross value of every bet placed by a customer and on every prize or net winnings paid to a customer by a remote gaming operator,

and every person who places such bet or receives such prize or net winnings shall pay the tax to the person who carries on the business of the betting shop operator, gaming lounge operator, casino operator, simulcast, horse and hound licensee or remote gaming operator, as the case may be, and every betting shop operator, gaming lounge operator, casino operator, simulcast, horse and hound licensee and remote gaming operator shall remit those taxes in the manner prescribed, and all taxes so collected shall be paid into the Special Responsible Gaming Fund established under the Gaming Authority Act.”.

SCHEDULE ONE**CONSTITUTION AND PROCEDURE OF THE AUTHORITY**

Composition of
the Board.

1. The Board consists of –

- (a) the Chairperson;
- (b) the Deputy Chairperson; and
- (c) not fewer than five and not more than seven other members appointed under section 5.

Eligibility for
appointment.

2. (1) A person is eligible for appointment as a member of the Board if the person –

- (a) is a citizen of Guyana or is ordinarily resident in Guyana;
- (b) is of sound mind; and
- (c) possesses qualifications, knowledge or experience in law, finance, accounting, banking, business management, gaming regulation, information technology, public administration, law enforcement or any other discipline relevant to the functions of the Authority.

(2) A person is not eligible for appointment as a member of the Board if the person-

- (a) is an undischarged bankrupt;
- (b) has been convicted of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty, corruption, money laundering, financing of terrorism or any other offence that, in the opinion of the Minister, renders the person unsuitable for appointment;

(c) has a direct or indirect financial or other interest that conflicts, or is likely to conflict, with the proper performance of the functions of a member of the Board;

(d) has been removed from public office for misconduct; or

(e) is otherwise disqualified under any written law.

Tenure of office.

3. (1) A member holds office for a term not exceeding three years and is eligible for reappointment.

(2) A member shall continue in office until a successor is appointed unless the member sooner vacates office.

Resignation.

4. (1) A member, other than the Chairperson, may resign by written notice addressed to the Chairperson.

(2) The Chairperson may resign by written notice addressed to the Minister.

Removal from office.

5. The Minister may remove a member from office if the member –

(a) becomes disqualified under paragraph 2;

(b) is unable to perform the functions of office because of physical or mental incapacity;

(c) is guilty of serious misconduct;

(d) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board without the permission of the Chairperson;

(e) fails to disclose a conflict of interest as required under this Schedule; or

(f) otherwise fails to perform the functions of office.

Vacation of office.

6. A member vacates office if the member –

- (a) resigns;
- (b) dies;
- (c) ceases to be qualified for appointment; or
- (d) is removed from office.

Filling of
vacancies.

7. Where a vacancy occurs, the Minister shall appoint another person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Acting
appointments.

8. (1) Where the Chairperson is absent or unable to perform the functions of office, the Deputy Chairperson shall act as Chairperson.

(2) Where both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are absent, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside.

Meetings.

9. (1) The Board shall meet as often as is necessary for the proper discharge of its functions and, in any event, not less than once every two months.

(2) The Chairperson may convene a special meeting at any time.

(3) The Chairperson shall convene a special meeting upon the written request of not fewer than three members.

Quorum.

10. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

Presiding at
meetings.

11. (1) The Chairperson shall preside at meetings.

(2) In the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson shall preside.

(3) In the absence of both, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside.

Decisions.

12. (1) A decision of the Board shall be by a majority of the members present and voting.

(2) The person presiding has a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, also has a casting vote.

Disclosure of
interest.

13. (1) A member who has a direct or indirect interest in a matter before the Board shall disclose the nature of that interest as soon as practicable.

(2) The disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes.

(3) Unless the Board otherwise determines, the member shall not –

(a) participate in the deliberation of the matter; or

(b) vote on the matter.

Committees.

14. (1) The Board may establish committees consisting of members of the Board or other suitably qualified persons.

(2) A committee shall perform the functions assigned to it by the Board.

(3) The Board is not bound by the recommendations of a committee.

Validity of
proceedings.

15. An act or proceeding of the Board is not invalid by reason only of –

- (a) a vacancy in the membership of the Board;
- (b) a defect in the appointment of a member; or
- (c) an irregularity that does not affect the merits of the decision.

Remuneration and
allowances.

16. Members shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as may be determined by the Minister responsible for finance.

Protection from
personal liability.

17. A member is not personally liable for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith in the exercise or purported exercise of a function under this Act.

SCHEDULE TWO**FEES**

Licence	Application Fee	Annual Fee	Annual Gaming Equipment Fee	Annual Table Fee
Casino Operator Licence	GYD \$5,000,000	GYD \$4,000,000	GYD \$60,000 (per unit)	GYD \$200,000 (per unit)
Casino Premises Licence	GYD \$5,000,000	GYD \$4,000,000		
Betting Shop Operator Licence	GYD \$30,000,000	GYD \$30,000,000	GYD \$1,000,000 (per unit)	GYD \$200,000 (per unit)
Betting Shop Premises Licence	GYD \$2,000,000	GYD \$2,000,000		
Betting Shop Agent Licence	GYD \$500,000	NIL		
Gaming Lounge Operator Licence	GYD \$20,000,000	GYD \$20,000,000	GYD \$1,000,000 (per unit)	GYD \$200,000 (per unit)
Gaming Lounge Premises Licence	GYD \$20,000,000	GYD \$20,000,000		

Remote Gaming Operator Licence	GYD \$250,000,000	GYD \$250,000,000		
Simulcast, Horse and Hound Racing Licence	GYD\$ 2,500, 000	NIL		

PART II –Gaming Equipment Registration Fees

Matter	Fee
Registration of Gaming Equipment	G\$100,000
Certificate of Registration	G\$25,000
Relocation of Gaming Equipment	G\$50,000

PART III – Administrative Fees

Matter	Fee
Variation of Licence	G\$250,000
Inspection or Testing Fee	G\$100,000
Replacement Licence	G\$25,000

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Gaming Authority Bill 2026 seeks to establish a comprehensive legal framework for the licensing, regulation, supervision, taxation and control of gaming, betting and wagering activities in Guyana. The Bill establishes the Gaming Authority of Guyana as the principal regulatory authority responsible for the oversight of the gaming sector, provides for the licensing and regulation of gaming operators and gaming activities, promotes responsible gaming and consumer protection, strengthens measures relating to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, and provides for administrative enforcement and other connected matters.

Part I contains the preliminary provisions of the Bill. It provides for the short title and commencement of the Act, defines key terms used throughout the Bill, sets out the objects of the legislation and specifies its application. The Part establishes the legislative framework for promoting a safe, transparent and well regulated gaming sector while protecting the public and maintaining the integrity of gaming activities.

Part II establishes the Gaming Authority of Guyana as the statutory body responsible for administering and enforcing the Act. It provides for the legal status of the Authority, sets out its functions and powers, provides for the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer and staff, and makes provision for the Authority's funding, budgeting, accounts, audit and annual reporting requirements.

Part III establishes the general licensing and registration framework applicable to regulated gaming activities. It provides for the classes of licences that may be granted, the registration of gaming premises and gaming equipment, the application process, fit and proper person requirements, licence conditions, the variation, suspension, revocation and cancellation of licences, the maintenance and inspection of records, the keeping of a Register of Licences, annual reporting obligations and appeals against licensing decisions. The Part also provides for the payment of winnings and the preparation of the Authority's Annual Gaming Report.

Part IV establishes the regulatory framework governing casinos. It prohibits the operation of casinos without the required operator and premises licences, prescribes the eligibility requirements for casino operators, establishes standards applicable to casino premises, provides for regional limitations on casino licences, provides for the payment of application and annual licence fees and sets out the duties and obligations of casino operators, including provisions relating to the relocation and closure of casinos.

Part V establishes the regulatory framework governing gaming lounges. It provides for separate operator and premises licensing requirements, prescribes the requirements applicable to gaming lounge licences, limits the number of gaming lounge licences that may be granted within an administrative region, establishes standards applicable to gaming lounge premises, provides for the payment of licence fees and sets out the duties and obligations of Gaming Lounge Licensees.

Part VI regulates betting shops, betting shop agents, remote gaming operations, simulcast horse and hound racing activities and foreign gaming service providers. The Part establishes the licensing requirements applicable to these gaming activities, prescribes operational requirements and provides for the payment of a settlement fee by foreign gaming service providers in order to facilitate regulatory oversight and the collection of revenue.

Part VII strengthens regulatory compliance by establishing customer identification, record keeping and customer due diligence requirements consistent with anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism obligations. The Part requires licensees to verify the identity of customers, maintain records of bets, winnings and transactions, prohibits anonymous gaming, establishes reporting obligations and creates offences relating to false or misleading documents and records.

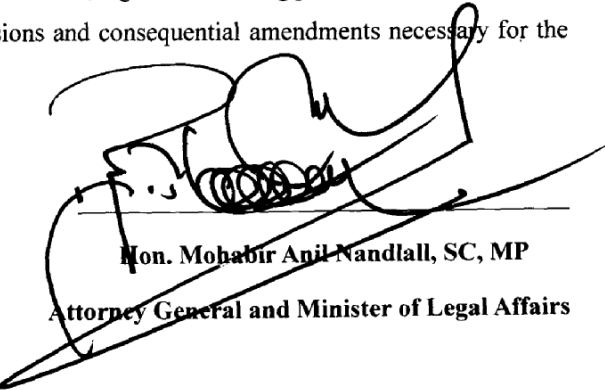
Part VIII establishes the regulatory framework governing gaming equipment. It provides for the registration and certification of gaming equipment, prescribes identification requirements, regulates the

deployment and relocation of gaming equipment, establishes technical standards, provides for the inspection and testing of gaming equipment and regulates the removal and disposal of gaming equipment to ensure the integrity of gaming equipment and effective regulatory oversight.

Part IX promotes responsible gaming by requiring licensees to establish and implement responsible gaming programmes designed to minimise gambling-related harm, prevent underage gaming and promote public awareness. The Part also establishes the Special Responsible Gaming Fund to finance public education and awareness programmes, research, prevention initiatives, treatment and counselling services and other responsible gaming programmes.

Part X establishes the administrative enforcement framework under the Act. It empowers the Authority to impose administrative penalties for contraventions of the Act, the regulations and licence conditions, ensures procedural fairness by requiring notice and an opportunity to be heard before a penalty is imposed, and provides for the recovery and enforcement of unpaid administrative penalties.

Part XI contains miscellaneous provisions relating to offences, exempted categories of gaming, the settlement fee payable by foreign gaming service providers, regulation-making powers, amendment of the Schedules, repeal, savings and transitional provisions and consequential amendments necessary for the effective implementation of the Act.



Hon. Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, MP
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs