

AN ACT

RELATING TO GAMING; CHANGING THE MEMBERSHIP ON THE GAMING CONTROL BOARD.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 60-2E-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1997, Chapter 190, Section 7) is amended to read:

"60-2E-5. GAMING CONTROL BOARD CREATED.--

A. The "gaming control board" is created and consists of five members. The members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. All members of the board shall be residents of New Mexico and citizens of the United States. One member of the board shall have a minimum of five years of previous employment in a supervisory and administrative position in a law enforcement agency; one member of the board shall be a certified public accountant in New Mexico who has had at least five years of experience in public accountancy; and one member of the board shall be an attorney who has been admitted to practice before the supreme court of New Mexico. The remaining two members shall be representatives of the general public.

B. The members of the board shall be appointed for terms of five years. To provide for staggered terms of the members who are first appointed, the member with law enforcement experience shall be appointed for a term of five years; the member who is a certified public accountant shall be appointed for a term of four years; the member who is an attorney shall be appointed for a term of three years; one public member shall be appointed for a term of two years;

and one public member shall be appointed for a term of one year. Thereafter those members shall be appointed for terms of five years. No person shall serve as a board member for more than two consecutive terms or ten years total.

C. No member of the board may be employed in any other capacity or shall in any manner receive compensation for services rendered to any person other than the board while a member of the board.

D. A vacancy on the board shall be filled within thirty days by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for the unexpired portion of the term in which the vacancy occurs. A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall meet all qualification requirements of the office established in this section.

E. The governor shall choose a chairman annually from the board's membership.

F. No more than three members of the board shall be from the same political party.

G. The members of the board shall be full-time state officials and shall receive a salary set by the governor.

H. The department of public safety shall conduct background investigations of all members of the board prior to appointment by the governor and confirmation by the senate. To assist the department in the background investigation, a prospective board member shall furnish a disclosure statement to the department on a form provided by the department containing that information deemed by the department as necessary for completion of a detailed and thorough background investigation. The required information

shall include:

(1) a full set of fingerprints made by a law enforcement agency on forms supplied by the department;

(2) complete information and details with respect to the prospective board member's antecedents, habits, immediate family, character, criminal record, business activities, financial affairs and business associates covering at least a ten-year period immediately preceding the date of submitting the disclosure statement;

(3) complete disclosure of any equity interest held by the prospective board member or a member of his immediate family in a company that is an applicant or licensee or an affiliate, affiliated company, intermediary company or holding company in respect to an applicant or licensee; and

(4) the names and addresses of members of the immediate family of the prospective board member.

I. No person may be appointed or confirmed as a member of the board if that person or member of his immediate family holds an equity interest in a company that is an applicant or licensee or an affiliate, affiliated company, intermediary company or holding company in respect to an applicant or licensee.

J. A prospective board member shall provide assistance and information requested by the department of public safety or the governor and shall cooperate in any inquiry or investigation of the prospective board member's fitness or qualifications to hold the office to which he is appointed. The senate shall not confirm a prospective board member if it has reasonable cause to believe that the

prospective board member has:

(1) knowingly misrepresented or omitted a material fact required in a disclosure statement;

(2) been convicted of a felony, a gaming related offense or a crime involving fraud, theft or moral turpitude within ten years immediately preceding the date of submitting a disclosure statement required pursuant to the provisions of Subsection H of this section;

(3) exhibited a history of willful disregard for the gaming laws of this or any other state or the United States; or

(4) had a permit or license issued pursuant to the gaming laws of this or any other state or the United States permanently suspended or revoked for cause.

K. At the time of taking office, each board member shall file with the secretary of state a sworn statement that he is not disqualified under the provisions of Subsection I of this section."

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1999. _____