PRAIRIE STATE GAMING

Video gaming licensing checklist

Every license and document a bar or restaurant needs before terminals go in, for Chicago and for the suburbs.

A plain-language summary, not legal advice. The statute, the Illinois Gaming Board's rules and your municipality control. For where Chicago's rollout stands today, see https://prairiestateslots.com/chicago-video-gaming

Before you start

- ☐ Check that your municipality allows video gaming. The Illinois Gaming Board publishes the list of places that prohibit it. (230 ILCS 40/27)
- ☐ Confirm your liquor license is for consumption on the premises. A package-goods license does not qualify. (230 ILCS 40/5)
- ☐ In Chicago, confirm the class: the City names the Tavern and Consumption on Premises - Incidental Activity licenses. (BACP)
- ☐ Gather the documents local applications ask for: your state and local liquor licenses, your lease or deed, your business formation papers, and a floor plan showing where the terminals will go. (BACP; Cook County)

State license: Illinois Gaming Board

- ☐ Register and complete the Board's online video gaming location license application. (IGB instructions)
- ☐ Pay the nonrefundable $100 application fee. An application without it is not processed. (IGB instructions)
- ☐ List everyone with an ownership interest, the location's video gaming manager, and its officers or directors. Each submits fingerprints at an approved facility. (IGB instructions)
- ☐ Answer every question completely. Any misrepresentation or omission is grounds for denial. (IGB instructions)
- ☐ If the Board finds you suitable, pay the $100 annual license fee when asked. (IGB instructions)
- ☐ Report changes, such as a change of ownership, as they happen. The duty to disclose continues after you apply. (IGB instructions)

The use agreement

- ☐ Terminals are placed only under a written use agreement between you and a licensed terminal operator. (230 ILCS 40/25(e))
- ☐ An agreement is void if the location does not apply for a license within one year of signing, or is denied one. (11 Ill. Adm. Code 1800.320)
- ☐ Before signing, work through PSG's use agreement checklist (a separate PDF on the same page).

Chicago locations

- [ ] Apply for the City's Video Gaming Location License from the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (Chapter 4-155). (BACP)
- [ ] Have the City's list ready: the Illinois Gaming Board license first, a qualifying liquor license, a floor plan, the use agreement, and proof of lease or ownership. Six machines at most. (BACP)
- [ ] The state will not let a Chicago location operate terminals until it holds the City license. (IGB, June 11, 2026 minutes)
- [ ] Check where the City's licensing stands on the dated status page at prairiestateslots.com/chicago-video-gaming before you plan dates.

Suburbs and unincorporated areas

- [ ] Ask your village or city clerk whether a local video gaming license and annual fee apply. Amounts and paperwork vary from one town to the next.
- [ ] Unincorporated Cook County: the County's own license requires the state license first, a $500 application fee, a $1,000 license fee per terminal each year, a floor plan, the operator agreement, and a building permit for the installation. (Cook County)

Sources

230 ILCS 40/5 — definitions — https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=023000400K5

230 ILCS 40/25 — terminal operators, split, caps, use agreements — https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=023000400K25

230 ILCS 40/27 — municipal prohibition — https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=023000400K27

11 Ill. Adm. Code 1800.320 — use agreement standards — https://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/011/011018000C03200R.html

Illinois Gaming Board — location license application instructions — https://igbapps.illinois.gov/vla/instructions.aspx

Illinois Gaming Board — Video Gaming — https://igb.illinois.gov/video-gaming.html

City of Chicago, BACP — Video Gaming licenses — https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/chicago-business-licensing/home/videogaming.html

Cook County — Video Gaming License — https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/video-gaming-license

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