

VETERANS FACT SHEET: The Gaming Regulation Act. (HB 970)

WHAT DOES HB 970 DO?

House Bill 970 (HB 970) establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for **video lottery terminals (VLTs)** in Missouri, creating a **safe, legal, and taxed** gaming environment while generating millions of dollars for veterans' services and public education.

What is Distributed Gaming and how is it different from what we have in Missouri today?

Distributed gaming refers to state-licensed video lottery terminals (VLTs) placed in small businesses such as veterans' halls, bars, truck stops, and convenience stores—**rather than allowing casinos to have a monopoly on gaming**. These machines are connected to a centralized system that ensures fair play, security, and tax compliance. Unlike unregulated gaming machines, VLTs are certified, monitored, and taxed to generate revenue for public services.

HOW DOES HB 970 BENEFIT VETERANS?

HB 970 dedicates **\$400 from each annual machine license fee**, generating an estimated \$10–15 million per year in dedicated funding for the Veterans Service Commission. Regulated and licensed Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) provide a stronger, more stable revenue source for local veterans' posts compared to unregulated gray games. In Illinois, American Legion and VFW posts with licensed **VLTs generated over \$23 million in gaming revenue over four years**,

J&J VFW Post Locations in Illinois:

- Number of locations: **46**
- Total 4 year Gaming Revenue: **\$11,520,000**
- Average Annual Gaming Revenue: **\$250,434**

J&J American Legion Post Locations in Illinois:

- Number of locations: **57**
- Total 4 year Gaming Revenue: **\$11,968,000**
- Average Annual Gaming Revenue: **\$208,385**