Statute / Regulation

Gaming Control Act, 1992

- O. Regulation 68/94
- O. Regulation 197/95
- O. Regulation 385/99
- O. Regulation 281/07

Proposed changes

Replace the existing four regulations under the GCA with one comprehensive regulation that permits the introduction of a risk-based regulatory system for gaming. This is consequential to the amendments to the GCA in the *Better Tomorrow for Ontario Act (Budget Measures)*, 2011 that received Royal Assent on May 12, 2011. It is also consistent with the recommendation made by the Auditor General in his 2010 Annual Report on casino gaming regulation that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) develop control-risk frameworks to allow gaming facilities to be assessed individually for risk.

The amendments to the GCA allow the Registrar of Alcohol and Gaming to establish standards and requirements regarding the conduct and management of gaming in Ontario. These amendments would permit the AGCO to introduce a risk-based system of gaming regulation and provide more flexibility to tailor standards to different gaming sites and accommodate new forms of gaming. This includes commercial gaming and lotteries operated by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) and charitable gaming. In addition standards can be established for other individuals and businesses related to gaming including those providing goods and services.

The GCA amendments would allow the Registrar to establish standards that address issues such as the prevention of unlawful activities, integrity of the game, surveillance and security, internal controls, record-keeping and responsible gambling. Many of the provisions in the existing regulations under the GCA set out multiple classes of registrants or provide prescriptive requirements for gaming. Many of these provisions will no longer be necessary with the ability of the Registrar to set standards.

The new regulation will streamline the existing types of registrants into several classes:

- Gaming related suppliers
- Non-gaming related suppliers
- Gaming assistants with operational responsibility
- Gaming assistants with supervisory or decision making responsibility
- Sellers

The streamlining of the classes of registrants will allow

gaming standards to better focus on the risk to the integrity of gaming. For example, a non-gaming related supplier (food and drink supplier) may represent less risk than a gaming related supplier (slot machine manufacturer).

Furthermore, the proposed regulation would allow the Registrar to exempt individuals and companies who supply goods and services from being registered under the GCA. The criteria for exemption would include a person's membership in a regulated profession (e.g., an accountant) or if the value of the goods and services provided in a year is less than \$750,000.

Exemptions would also be granted in the charitable sector for persons who provides services and do not receive remuneration, licensees who provide goods and services to themselves and owners or operators of premises who grant leases of premises used for gaming and the Registrar is satisfied that registration is not required.

Following the statutory amendments to the GCA, the Registrar would also be able to set standards for responsible gaming. Under the proposed regulation, the Registrar would be able to exclude individuals from gaming sites. The standards for responsible gaming would apply where appropriate across different types of gaming and reflect operational differences (e.g. casino versus charitable gaming). The ability to exclude individuals would also be extended to include any gaming site.

These proposed amendments are complementary to regulatory changes being proposed concurrently under the *Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation Act*, 1999.