

Introduced by Buffaloe

First Reading 2-14-26

Second Reading 5-18-26

Ordinance No. 026315

Council Bill No. B 37-26

**AN ORDINANCE**

amending Chapter 16 of the City Code by adding a new Division 22 related to the regulation of electronic gaming machines; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that unregulated electronic gaming machines offering monetary prizes, often referred to as "gray machines" or "no-chance machines," are proliferating within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that such machines can result in detrimental impacts to the neighborhoods in which they are located; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also finds that such machines can result in detrimental financial impacts to the individuals that use such machines; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the prohibition of electronic gaming machines offering monetary prizes is necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 16 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, Missouri, is hereby amended by adding a new Division 22 as follows:

Chapter 16 – OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

...

ARTICLE II. CODE OF OFFENSES

...

Division 22. ELECTRONIC GAMING MACHINES

Sec. 16-252. Prohibition of certain electronic gaming machines.

(a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section 16-252, shall have the following meanings:

- (1) “*Electronic gaming machine*” means any device that accepts legal tender or other forms of digital currency in exchange for video lottery game credit that is available to play or simulate the play of a video lottery game through an electronic, mechanical, or electromechanical process in which the player may receive a monetary prize for winning plays. The term electronic gaming machine includes but is not limited to “no-chance” gaming devices, pre-reveal gaming devices and devices marketed as amusement machines that nevertheless may award a monetary prize. The term electronic gaming machine does not include any unlawful gambling device under state law or any gambling device licensed and regulated by the Missouri Gaming Commission or Missouri State Lottery Commission.
- (2) “*Monetary prize*” means any tangible item or thing of value in the form of cash, check, bank transfer, negotiable instrument, store credit, gift card, or any ticket or other tangible item that is redeemable for cash, check, bank transfer, negotiable instrument, store credit, or gift card.
- (3) “*Video lottery game*” means an electronically simulated lottery game of chance, regardless of whether the outcome is actually predetermined, including but not limited to video poker, keno, slots, or blackjack, which is displayed on an electronic gaming machine.

(b) *Electronic gaming machines, unlawful.* It shall be unlawful for any person to maintain or offer for use by any person any electronic gaming machine that offers a monetary prize to any person regardless of the frequency with which a monetary prize is conferred or the odds of any individual player receiving a monetary prize.

(c) *Penalty.* Any person violating the provisions of this section, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in an amount not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned in the city jail for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days, or be both so fined and imprisoned. Each electronic gaming machine maintained or offered for use in violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder. Each day such violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder.

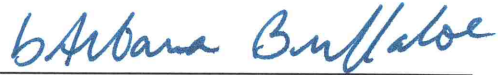
SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED this 18th day of May, 2026.

ATTEST:



City Clerk



Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Counselor