



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: Law

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 18, 2026

Re: Supplemental Memo – Amending Chapter 16 of the City Code to Prohibit the Operation and Maintenance of Certain Electronic Gaming Machines

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

At the City Council meeting on March 2, 2026, the Council tabled B37-26 that would amend Chapter 16 of the City Code related to the regulation of electronic gaming machines to the May 18, 2026 meeting.

Discussion

At the request of the City Council, B37-26 was tabled to the Council's May 18, 2026 meeting as part of the approval and adjustment of the meeting agenda.

Since that date, Attorney General Catherine Hanaway has definitively declared the video lottery terminals to be illegal. The AG's Office has begun to actively investigate and commence efforts against the operators, manufacturers and retail stores involved with the activity.

In addition, it was announced that on April 10, 2026 Torch Electronics, who is the largest provider of the devices in Missouri, would suspend all operations within the State. The police department has surveyed the locations within Columbia where the terminals were known to exist and determined two sites continue to operate the machines: Eagle Stop on North Providence and We B Smokin' on Fourth Street. The other locations where Torch machine were previously observed to be operating had signage on the door stating:

Torch Electronics
OUT OF SERVICE FOR THE TIME BEING
ASK YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND
SENATORS
TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF VIDEO LOTTERY
TERMINAL (VLT) LEGISLATION
BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE ENDS ITS
CURRENT SESSION

Attorney General Hanaway's Office has engaged the assistance of law enforcement to continue enforcement efforts against the locations where the gaming devices continue to be operated.



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While city staff agrees operation of the vast majority of such machines is illegal and should be enforced under state law, the existence of a municipal regulatory scheme as set forth in the proposed ordinance would allow the City to engage in enforcement action in any situation where the operator claims the devices are "legal" under state law.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: No impact,
Long-Term Impact: No impact

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community,
Tertiary Impact: Resilient Economy

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Economic Development,
Tertiary Impact: Land Use & Growth Management

Legislative History

Date	Action
03/02/2026	B37-26: Amending Chapter 16 of the City Code by adding a new Division 22 related to the regulation of electronic gaming machines.

Suggested Council Action

Passage of the ordinance.