



**State of Arkansas  
Department of Finance and Administration  
Fiscal Impact Statement**

**Bill: HB1847**

**Bill Subtitle: TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS RACING COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN A STATEWIDE SELF-EXCLUSION LIST.**

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**Sponsors:**

**Rep. McAlindon**

**Basic Change:**

HB1847 allows the Arkansas Racing Commission (Commission) to maintain a statewide self-exclusion list, to join a multi-state or national self-exclusion program, or to enter into an agreement with another state or states for the sharing and mutual enforcement of each state's respective self-exclusion list.

Self-exclusion is a declaration by an individual that the individual wants to be placed on a list to be excluded from entering a casino's facility. The names and information on the self-exclusion list cannot be disclosed by the Commission or casino without authorization from the individual.

Any costs associated with Commission requirements for the self-exclusion program may be paid from an assessment paid by each casino.

The Commission shall promulgate rules to implement and enforce:

- Transition from a single-location self-exclusion list to a statewide or broader self-exclusion list;
- An option for a self-excluded individual to select the state with which the commission is authorized to share information;
- A means for an individual to join a self-exclusion list in multiple states using a single form; and
- A means for an individual to be removed from the self-exclusion list.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Any costs associated with operating the exclusion list would be paid from an assessment paid by each casino permitted in Arkansas.

**Taxpayer Impact:**

The bill provides a taxpayer with the convenience of enabling a centralized, confidential self-exclusion process. Currently, individuals must physically visit each casino to self-exclude, but this bill would allow for remote self-exclusion using a technology-based program.

**Resources Required:**

The Commission has existing resources to manage the legal and administrative aspects of the program without requiring additional full-time staff. The Commission will need to procure a technology-based program to facilitate self-exclusion, which could be implemented through a contracted vendor.



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**Time Required:**

The Racing Commission will need time to research and draft appropriate rules.

**Procedural Changes:**

The Arkansas Racing Commission will establish and maintain a centralized self-exclusion list, and casinos will rely on the statewide system. The Commission will develop rules for transitioning to the new system, processing self-exclusion requests, and ensuring confidentiality. Casino licensees will be educated on the change in procedures.

**Other Comments:**

As some casinos may not scan customer IDs, but instead visually check them upon entrance to a casino, the denial of entry may be impracticable. At present, an individual who is on the self-exclusion list may find his or her way into the casino, but it is not clear if the individual would be able to receive winnings once the ID is checked against the self-exclusion list. Currently, casino staff familiarize themselves with photos on the self-exclusion list and remove individuals as they are found.

**Legal Analysis:**

HB1847 may benefit from an amendment on page 2, line 16, to provide that the commission shall promulgate rules if the Director of the Commission exercises his or her discretion on page 1, line 28.