

Sweepstakes Gaming Enforcement-January 3rd

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Sheriff Len Hagaman has passed along to his staff that enforcement of the state's ban on video gaming will resume on January 3rd. With the reversal in the Supreme Court of North Carolina last Friday, the NC Sheriff's Association issued information based on guidance of the State Attorney General's Office, and in spite of the Sweepstakes games association saying they would appeal to the US Supreme Court, it appears enforcement of the ban is eminent. The Sheriff's Association said in its memo that, 'Under the NC Rules of Appellate Procedure, opinions of the Supreme Court become effective 20 days after the issuance of the opinions. Therefore, these two opinions will be effective and the existing law can be enforced by law enforcement officers beginning on January 3, 2013. This effective date to resume enforcement of the law outlawing video sweepstakes has been confirmed with the NC Attorney General's Office.' The notification goes on to say that a recent memo from lawyers for the video sweepstakes industry indicates that some companies may "convert" their sweepstakes machines to a different system that they allege may not violate the statute, but then describes the Class H felony 'to obtain property by false pretense,' which might be the violation. Sheriff Hagaman, in forwarding the information to his staff, asked them to compile a list of locations of such businesses preparing for enforcement.