

History of Gaming in Iowa

TRACKS	
May 1983	Iowa Legislature passed the Pari-Mutuel Wagering Act (allowed qualified sponsoring organizations to apply for a license to conduct wagering on horse and dog racing)
July 1, 1983	Racing Commission formed
July 18, 1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granted 3-year, conditional license to Racing Association of Central Iowa for thoroughbred racing in Bondurant Granted a 3-year, winter season greyhound racing license to National Cattle Congress (Opened Oct. 15, 1986 in Waterloo as Waterloo Greyhound Park) Granted 3-year seasonal greyhound license to Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd. (Opened June 1, 1985 as Dubuque Greyhound Park)
Aug. 28, 1984	3-year license to Iowa West Racing Association for greyhound racing in Council Bluffs (Opened 2/27/1984 as Bluffs Run)
Dec. 20, 1984	Racing Association of Iowa petitioned to change location to Altoona (3/1/1989: Prairie Meadows opened)
March 15, 1985	3-year license was issued to allow pari-mutuel harness racing at various county fairs
EXCURSION BOATS	
July 1, 1989	Legislation passed to allow Commission ability to license gambling games on excursion gambling boats in a county if the electorate approves via referendum (For complete list of referendum results, see http://www.iowa.gov/irgc/Chronology.htm#top)
March 8, 1990	Five entities were granted gambling licenses for excursion boats
Nov. 1990-Jan. 1991	Two more entities were granted licenses for excursion boats
May 1992	Legislation removed the live performance requirement for simulcast wagering at pari-mutuel facilities
May 1994	Legislation passed to alter regulations for boating casinos, including the allowance for entities to move operations to dry land
TRIBAL CASINOS	
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of Department of Inspections and Appeals negotiated three Native American Indian tribal gaming compacts for Governor. Winnebago Tribe of NE opened WinnaVegas Casino near Sloan on April 30, 1992 Omaha Tribe of NE began operation of CasinOmaha near Onawa on June 22, 1992 Sac and Fox Tribe of Mississippi in Iowa began operation of the Meskwaki Bingo and Casino near Tama on Dec. 31, 1992 <p>(Note: Iowa later approved renewals of three Tribes' compacts)</p>

MORE

CASINO EXPANSION	
<i>1992-2004</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission issued new licenses for excursion boating in multiple Iowa counties • Passed expansion plans for Ameristar Casino in Council Bluffs • Slot machines added to Prairie Meadows Racetrack, and Casino and Harveys Casino Hotel also added slot machines and gaming tables • Slot machines added to President Riverboat and the Ameristar Casino • Six counties approved gambling game referendums • Capital improvements were approved at Dubuque Greyhound Park and Casino • Expansion approved for Bluffs Run into Binion's Horseshoe (land based)
TODAY	
<i>May 2004</i>	Extensive legislation was passed, discussing excursion boat gambling, referendums, and usage of funds
<i>May 2005</i>	Approved four more excursion gambling boat licenses
<i>July 2006</i>	Approved expansion of Diamond Jo Worth facility
Current Facilities	3 Native American casinos; 14 excursion gambling boats; 3 racetrack enclosures

SOURCE: Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission Web site: <http://www.iowa.gov/irgc/Chronology.htm>