



CITY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 025-078
DATE OF PASSAGE November 25, 2025

An Ordinance amending Sec. 8-131 of the Code of Ordinances, pertaining to video gaming terminal regulations.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora has a population of more than 25,000 persons and is, therefore, a home rule unit under subsection (a) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, subject to said Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Video Gaming Act (230 ILCS 40/1 et seq.) has been amended to increase the maximum number of video gaming terminals permitted in a licensed establishment from five (5) to six (6); and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora seeks to align its local ordinances with the provisions of state law to provide consistent and clear regulations for businesses operating video gaming terminals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that increasing the number of terminals per location and the overall city-wide total will provide additional revenue opportunities for local businesses and generate new tax revenue for the city.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Illinois, as follows: That Sec. 8-131 of the Code of Ordinances shall be and are hereby amended specifically as provided in Exhibit A in this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 025-078

LEGISTAR NO. 25-0750

PASSED AND APPROVED ON November 25, 2025

AYES 8 NAYS 1 NOT VOTING 0 ABSENT 3

ALDERMAN	Vote
Alderman Barreiro, Ward 1	yes
Alderwoman Garza, Ward 2	yes
Alderman Mesiacos, Ward 3	absent
Alderman Núñez, Ward 4	yes
Alderman Franco, Ward 5	yes
Alderman Saville, Ward 6	yes
Alderman Bañuelos, Ward 7	yes
Alderwoman Smith, Ward 8	absent
Alderman Bugg, Ward 9	no
Alderwoman Baid, Ward 10	absent
Alderman Larson, At-Large	yes
Alderman White, At-Large	yes

ATTEST:


City Clerk Jennifer Stallings


Mayor John Laesch

Sec 8-131 Licensee Requirements

No establishment licensed by the Illinois Gaming Board shall be permitted to operate any video gaming terminal in the city pursuant to the Illinois Video Gaming Act (230 ILCS 40/1 et seq.) without first obtaining a video gaming terminal license under this division. The distributor of the video gaming terminal must also be in compliance with division 2 of this article.

a. Effective May 1, 2020, video gaming terminal licenses will only be issued to full-service restaurant establishments holding a liquor license and video gaming endorsement as described in Chapter 6, Sec 6-2 Definitions. Any video gaming terminal license in effect at the time of adoption of this section shall be renewed yearly so long as the licensed business does not change ownership. Any sale, transfer, or assignment of more than fifty (50) percent of the ownership of a business or partnership shall terminate said license. In the event that such license is held in the name of a corporation, the sale, transfer or assignment of fifty (50) percent of the stock shall terminate the license.

b. Liquor license must be in good standing with the City of Aurora and the State of Illinois.

c. An establishment must be in operation as a liquor licensed business for no less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to issuance of a video gaming terminal license. Applications

1 for a video gaming terminal license may be submitted prior to
2 the expiration of one hundred twenty (120) days, however,
3 final review of the application will only occur after the
4 required waiting period.

5 d. Limitations on the issuance of video gaming terminal licenses:

6 1. The number of video gaming terminal licenses shall be
7 limited to two hundred and forty (240~~00~~) video gaming
8 terminals.

9 2. No new video gaming terminal licenses may be issued to
10 any establishment that is less than two thousand six
11 hundred forty (2,640) feet from another licensed
12 establishment, measured from property line to property
13 line and where there is an existing licensed video gaming
14 terminal licensed in the same single shopping center,
15 plaza or strip mall without the applicant obtaining
16 approval by the local liquor control commissioner
17 (liquor commissioner) for the issuance of said license
18 as set forth herein. Current establishments located
19 within two thousand six hundred forty (2,640) feet or
20 within the same single shopping center, plaza or strip
21 mall with a video gaming terminal license in effect at
22 the time of adoption of this section shall be renewed
23 yearly so long as the licensed business does not change
24 ownership. Any sale, transfer, or assignment of more

1 than fifty (50) percent of the ownership of a business
2 or partnership shall terminate said license. In the
3 event that such license is held in the name of a
4 corporation, the sale, transfer or assignment of fifty
5 percent (50) of the stock shall terminate the license.

6 1. The liquor commissioner may grant a reduction of
7 the distance requirement set forth in paragraph
8 (d)(3) of this section based on the finding of an
9 administrative hearing officer that such a
10 reduction would not detrimentally impact the
11 existing video gaming licensee or the surrounding
12 community. If the liquor commissioner grants a
13 reduction, the applicant must still comply with all
14 other application requirements associated with the
15 issuance of a video gaming terminal license.

16 1. The hearing officer shall consider the
17 following factors in reviewing a request for
18 a distance reduction:

19 1. The type of activity to be conducted at
20 the establishment and the days and times
21 during which such activity will take
22 place;

23 2. The size of the applicant's business and
24 the size of the existing video gaming

- 1 licensee's business located within 2640
2 ft of the applicant business;
- 3 3. A report from the police regarding the
4 location, as well as the history of
5 activity conducted at or in conjunction
6 with the premises and any associated
7 infractions or violations of the
8 municipal code;
- 9 4. The relevant geography, and location of
10 the applicant's business;
- 11 5. Testimony from the existing video gaming
12 licensee(s) located within two thousand
13 six hundred forty (2640) ft of the
14 applicant business, if they choose; and
- 15 6. The extent to which the video gaming
16 constitutes a significant focus of the
17 applicant's business; and
- 18 7. The legal nature and history of the
19 applicant.
- 20 2. Applicants for a reduction of the distance
21 requirement shall submit their application to
22 the city clerk's office, and shall bear all
23 costs associated with the hearing officer's
24 review and court reporter fees for said review.

1 All such costs shall be paid by the applicant
2 prior to the issuance of a license, if
3 approved.

4 3. Prohibited in new establishments located
5 within the downtown and downtown fringe as
6 defined in the zoning ordinance.

7 4. Must not be permitted at establishments
8 located within one thousand (1,000) feet of a
9 casino.

10 5. A licensed video gaming location in the city
11 may operate up to five ~~six~~ (65) gaming
12 terminals on its premise at any time.

13 e. Every licensee shall strictly comply with all of the
14 conditions, rules and regulations imposed by the state, and
15 by the city, and specifically shall comply with the following:

16 1. Each and every video gaming terminal shall be licensed
17 by the state before placement or operation, and the
18 license for each and every terminal shall be posted at
19 the licensed premises where the video gaming terminal is
20 operated.

21 2. No video gaming terminal may be played except during the
22 legal hours of operation allowed for the consumption of
23 alcoholic beverages at the licensed establishment.

1 3. No licensee shall cause or permit any person under the
2 age of twenty-one (21) years to use or play a video
3 gaming terminal.

4 4. Video gaming terminals located within any licensed
5 establishment must be within an area of the
6 establishment that is restricted to persons twenty-one
7 (21) years of age and over, the entrance to which
8 restricted area is within the view at all times of at
9 least one (1) employee of said establishment, which
10 employee must likewise be twenty-one (21) years of age
11 or over.

12 (Ord. No. 018-026, 3-13-18; Ord. No. 019-046, (Exh. A), 7-9-19;
13 Ord. No. 020-024, § 1 (Exh. A), 4-14-20)