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**Nebraska Casinos**

**By Adel Awwad**

Nebraska is a state full of surprises. Surrounded by South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas and Colorado, the

Cornhusker state has more than five hundred municipalities plus acres and acres of state parkland, hiking trails and other outdoor activities. Nebraska is below the national average for both cost of living and crime. A whopping forty percent below the national crime rate! Hunting and fishing are major pastimes in Nebraska, and collegiate sports are also very big here with the University of Nebraska offering much for sports fans to enjoy. Nebraska is also Lewis and Clark territory and there are many tourist sites related to the famous pair's work and journeys.

Nebraska also has its share of casinos, including the Iron Bar, Ohiya Casino and Scottsbluff County Keno. Nebraska Casinos are in negotiations in some cases over the types of gaming allowed by state law. You may find blackjack, video poker, roulette and other games at some Nebraska Casinos, but disputes among local authorities and Nebraska Casinos may change the availability of these games depending on the state of the agreements between Nebraska Casinos and the state.

There are plenty of alternative types of gambling available in Nebraska Casinos. Nebraska Casinos can feature electronic bingo as part of the gaming fun. If you have never tried bingo or its electronic counterpart you might want to give it a whirl when traveling through Nebraska. In fact, electronic bingo is found fun by some people as it is very exciting once you get past the stigma of the "Sunday Social" kinds of games usually thought to be reserved for old-age homes or church fundraisers. In Nebraska Casinos, bingo has taken on a whole new dimension. The casino setting and electronic updating of this ages-old game make a re-evaluation of the old stereotypes a very good thing indeed.

A good example of alternative style gambling is found at Scottsbluff County Keno offering just what its name implies, Keno. This is a game where you try to predict the numbers pulled from a set of eighty. The number used may vary from casino to casino, but you can usually pick between one and ten numbers. Payouts depend on the rules at various Nebraska Casinos, but no matter where you go, the more numbers you guess right, the more your winnings increase. The Nebraska Casinos definitely offer something quite different than your standard poker and blackjack, making them worth looking into when you are in the area.

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## **Online Gambling And Legislation**

**By Adel Awwad**

With more than a trillion dollars changing hands around the world on online casinos alone, sooner rather than later legislation will step in to exercise some form of control in the casino industry. Those measures to control casinos and gambling during the early years worked as the casino had a physical location. Today however casinos have moved online with no real physical location. The question arises how legal are these online casinos?

Gambling legislation has not changed much since Congress passed the Wire Act in 1961. The Wire Act states that "Whoever being engaged in the business of betting or wagering knowingly uses a wire communication facility for the transmission in interstate or foreign commerce of bets or wagers or information assisting in the placing of bets or wagers on any sporting event or contest, or for the transmission of a wire communication which entitles the recipient to receive money or credit as a result of bets or wagers, or for information assisting in the placing of bets or wagers, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both." This however only covered sports betting and not casinos. There was also no Internet or Internet casinos during that time.

During 1998 both MasterCard and Visa sued Cynthia Haines for money she lost while gambling on an online casino. She had lost more than US\$70,000 to an online casino and could not settle her account with the plaintiffs. She filed a counterclaim well within the state laws of California which prohibited credit card loans for gambling be it online casinos or bricks and mortar casinos. That case was settled out of court. Many states have now enacted their own legislation however casinos have moved their gambling operations off shore to casino friendly countries.

Gambling has increased drastically with the advent of the Internet and online casinos. With huge profits and vested interest in casinos there are also very strong lobbyists in government to keep gambling unimpeded. The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act which was defeated in 2000 shows how much vested interest there is in the casino and gaming industry. Cyberspace is the last frontier when it comes to laws governing casinos. Only time will tell how legislation will catch-up with online casinos and gambling websites.

Adel Awwad is the webmaster of Online Casinos – Copyright © 2005

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