



March 13, 2026

Virginia General Assembly
Richmond, Virginia 23215

Senators & Delegates,

I am President of the Fraternal Order of Police of Virginia, the largest organization of law enforcement personnel in Virginia. We are a fraternal organization that cares for the families of Virginia's law enforcement community and those who share struggles of the profession. A part of our mission is to protect our professionals from senseless legislation.

In that spirit, I am writing to respectfully request that you reject any legislation currently before the General Assembly that would legalize "skill" slot machines. I urge you to maintain the ban on these predatory devices.

We are deeply concerned about legalizing skill slot machines in convenience stores, gas stations, and restaurants statewide. Legalizing them now, after skill game manufacturers and distributors have deliberately flouted Virginia law for years, would set a terrible precedent of rewarding those that have knowingly broken state law. This is not one or two isolated incidents. This is a pattern that has been going on for years.

Make no mistake: the illegal skill game problem in Virginia was created by slot manufacturers. They did not stumble into this market. These out-of-state companies deliberately flooded convenience stores, gas stations, and restaurants with illegal machines. Confusing small business owners and misleading law enforcement is a part of their business plan. Now, after years of defiance, they are asking Virginia to legalize their illegal machines. This is not regulation. This is capitulation.

To be clear, if Virginia legalizes these machines, the Commonwealth will see:

- increased crime, gang activity, and money laundering near establishments using "skill" slots.
- skyrocketing risk of underage gambling by children and teenagers.
- problem gambling by adults will increase dramatically; and
- revenue away from regulated charitable gaming that benefits Virginia communities.

The Fraternal Order of Police of Virginia urges you to maintain the Commonwealth's ban on skill games. Please vote against any bill that comes out of conference committee to legalize skill slots.

The General Assembly needs send a clear message that Virginia will not reward operators who deliberately defy state law. The Virginia FOP stands ready to work with you and enforce Virginia's gambling laws and protect our communities from illegal gambling operations.

Respectfully,

Ray Clemons

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