

## Harrah's fined \$20,000 for missing slot machine data

By DONALD WITTKOWSKI, Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, June 6, 2011 1:02 pm

ATLANTIC CITY - Harrah's Resort has been fined \$20,000 after state gaming investigators discovered that key electronic data was missing from the casino's slot machines for 154 days in 2008 and 2009.

The computer data provides an accurate count of the cash inside the machines and also helps the state to calculate its share of the tax revenue generated by slot play.

However, the information was "permanently lost" from a backup storage system consisting of magnetic tape because of space limitations, the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement disclosed Monday in documents posted on its website.

"Due to a limitation in the operating system, only 2 gigabytes of data could be compressed and transferred onto the magnetic tape. Once the limitation was exceeded, additional data would not be saved," the documents said.

Data was missing for a few days in each month from May 2008 to December 2008 and from January 2009 to September 2009, for a total of 154 days. Since October 2009, Harrah's has begun to separate different types of data for storage in its archives, which has solved the problem, the DGE said.

Caesars Entertainment Corp., parent company of Harrah's, has agreed to pay the fine.

"Caesars Entertainment takes the adherence to regulations very seriously. We recently received an order approving the proposed settlement and we are confident that all issues have been resolved," said Jennifer Weissman, regional vice president of marketing for Caesars Entertainment.

The DGE discovered the data was missing while conducting an investigation in 2009 of a customer's complaint. Details of the investigation were not divulged. The division was unable to complete the investigation because of the missing data, the documents said.

DGE spokeswoman Lisa Spengler said no state tax revenue was lost from the Harrah's slot machines because the tax information was recorded before the failure of the backup system.

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