

MISSOURI GAMING COMMISSION

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Media Release

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Changes in Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program on Hold

Jefferson City, Thursday, August 24, 2006 - Currently there are more than 10,500 people on Missouri's voluntary self-exclusion list.

Missouri Gaming Commission Problem Gambling Program Administrator Melissa Stephens says "we are heading back to the drawing board. We will try again to get the current Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program amended to help more problem and compulsive gamblers. We are trying to move away from a 'one-size-fits-all' approach."

The Missouri Gaming Commission Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program will continue to operate under current guidelines. Commissioners did not approve changes proposed to the plan at the August meeting.

One of the changes proposed was the ability for problem gamblers to self-exclude for a minimum of two years, providing they fulfill Commission requirements. After the minimum two years self-exclusion, those on the list would have had the option to seek approved counseling, obtain an assessment from a certified counselor and then petition the Commission for removal from the voluntary self-exclusion list. Casinos would have the final option for reinstatement of gaming privileges.

Missouri Gaming Commission Chairman Noel Shull says "more information is needed before we can approve any changes to the program. I would like to see more research on the exclusion time frame, and how the assessments will be performed before approval to a new program can be made."

The original intent of the Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program was to provide a means for compulsive gamblers to acknowledge and take responsibility for their gambling problem.