



## NYS Gaming Commission to Study Prevalence of Underage Gambling

*They'll be checking your stores, but it's **not** an enforcement exercise*

The New York Gaming Commission is about to begin a year-long field assessment of how well casinos, racinos, race tracks and lottery outlets are fulfilling their legal responsibility to prevent underage gambling.

Starting in mid to late December and continuing through much of 2018, supervised minors working for an independent contractor hired by the Commission will enter gaming establishments to try to place bets, and retail stores to try to buy lottery tickets from a vending machine and/or the counter. If the minor succeeds, management will be notified on the spot, and the sale will be voided, but the establishment will not be penalized. If the sale is refused, management will not be notified.

The study is being undertaken by the Commission as a member of New York's Responsible Play Partnership along with the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services and the New York Council on Problem Gambling.

**"These site visits are for study purposes only, and will not result in violations or sanctions against any licensed facility by the Commission."**

**Ronald Ochrym**  
Acting Executive Director  
NYS Gaming Commission

Lottery officials emphasized that this is not an enforcement initiative, but a "non-punitive, academic exercise" to provide a benchmark for future efforts to prevent underage gambling.

The private contractor - TruView of Hicksville, Long Island - will submit a report to the Gaming Commission in late 2018. The data will help the Commission make recommendations on what, if any, additional actions are needed to further deter underage access to in-state gambling options.



The study coincides with the fifth anniversary of the Gaming Commission's "**We Check ID**" age verification program. Lottery retailers have deployed signage and provided training to their sales personnel on procedures for preventing underage sales.

In 2016, the Gaming Commission adopted a penalty structure for retailers caught selling lottery to minors. A first violation results in a written warning; a second violation within one year, \$500 fine; third violation within one year, \$1,000 fine; and fourth or subsequent violation within one year, further action including possible license suspension. However, as previously stated, this study will not entail violations or penalties against retailers.

Retailers will receive a letter from the Lottery about the study with the December 29 POS package, and your Lottery representative will provide more details.

Should you have any questions about this study now or in the future, contact NYACS President Jim Calvin at 581-432-1400 or [jim@nyacs.org](mailto:jim@nyacs.org).

**Jim Calvin, President**  
**New York Association of Convenience Stores**  
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New York Association of Convenience Stores, 130 Washington Ave,  
3rd Floor, Albany, NY 12210

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