



# NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

**For more information contact:**

Greg Saunders  
Deputy Executive Director  
NM Gaming Control Board  
Phone: 505-841-9716  
Fax : 505-841-9793

Loretta M. Chavez  
Public Relations Coordinator  
Website: [www.gcb.state.nm.us](http://www.gcb.state.nm.us)  
Phone: 505-841-9711  
Fax : 505-841-9793  
E-mail: [lchavez@gcb.state.nm.us](mailto:lchavez@gcb.state.nm.us)

## **Classified Ad Leads Agents to the Sale of Illegal Gaming Devices**

**ALBUQUERQUE – April 22, 2004** – Gaming Control Board enforcement agents responded to a local classified newspaper ad featuring the sale of a slot machine. Agents proceeded to an Albuquerque heights residence where they questioned a Mr. Jose M. Argueta, 53 of Albuquerque. Subsequent investigation revealed that Argueta had an illegal gaming device for sale. Upon further investigation, agents went to another Albuquerque residence where two additional illegal gaming devices were found. A total of three illegal slot machines were seized. Argueta was arrested on three counts of possession of illegal gaming devices and three counts of unlawful manufacture, sale, and distribution of gaming devices. Argueta was booked into the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center. There is an ongoing Investigation.

Property taken or detained under the provisions of the Gaming Control Act and the Criminal Code remains in the custody of the Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division, subject only to the orders and decrees of the district court having jurisdiction. Gaming Control Act section 60-2E-53 stipulates that “a person who knowingly possesses any gaming device that has been manufactured, sold or distributed in violation of the Gaming Control Act [Chapter 60, Article 2E NMSA 1978] is guilty of a fourth degree felony.” Gaming Control Act section 60-2E-55 stipulates that “a person who manufactures, sells or distributes a device that is intended by him to be used to violate any provision of the Gaming Control Act is guilty of a fourth degree felony.” Since 1999, more than 900 illegal gaming machines have been destroyed.

“We want to alert the public that the possession, sale and/or distribution of unlicensed gaming devices is a felony crime in New Mexico and is strictly enforced by the Gaming Control Board,” stated Greg Saunders, Deputy Executive Director. If anyone has questions concerning a gaming device, they are urged to contact the Enforcement Division at 841-9700.

The New Mexico Gaming Control Board was established by statute in 1997 and funded during the 1998 legislative session. It began operations in June of 1998. The Board is responsible for regulating legalized gambling at licensed racetracks and qualified veteran's and fraternal organizations of New Mexico. The Board is also responsible for overseeing New Mexico's tribal gaming compacts through the appointment of the state gaming representative. The Board has 57 employees, which include licensing and background specialists, compliance auditors, attorneys, and certified peace officers.

###