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Lifeline Of The US Internet Gambling Law

In 1996 we were treated to a surge of online casinos that swept thru the entire world. The U. S. saw an incredible increase in both online casinos and players. This huge increase of online players worried the land-based casino owners and they lobbied to have it stopped or at least slowed down. They knew if this pace continued they'd see more of a loss of profits. So they lobbied Congress hard and in 2006 The United States passed the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (or UIGEA).

The UIGEA act prohibited all of the banks and payment processors from processing any kind of transactions related to online gambling. This created a problem for gamblers in loading and withdrawing funds from their online accounts. While the companies continued to operate they had to use payment processors that could circumvent such restrictions. Despite all these laws related to online gambling, some online casinos continued to accept gamblers from the United States.

On the other hand, most of the bigger online brands left the United States market, the choices for players became quite limited. Many said it was very difficult to find a good online casino. A lot of ratings sites started to turn up that directed players to the sites they so desperately looked for. Some of these sites were better than others, nevertheless they served the need which was created. Soon after the industry started to stabilize and gamblers were playing online again, Black Friday hit the online gaming world.

Several casinos had found a way around the deposit and withdrawal problems and the online gambling world was growing yet again. Many started to feel invincible to this new law. The government was not really enforcing it and it seemed like they had no intentions of doing so. It was certainly a false feeling of security for both the gamblers and online casinos. April 15, 2011, will go down in history as the day the online gambling industry was punished and punished hard. It was the start of a new era. The US Department of Justice charged the owners of the three largest poker sites Poker Stars, Full Tilt Poker and Absolute Poker with bank fraud, illegal gambling offenses, and laundering billions of dollars in illegal gambling proceeds. The DOJ seized their domain names along with their funds. Suddenly many US gamblers were not just left with nowhere to gamble and no way to recover their funds.

Black Friday forced more gambling brands to depart the United States Market. Everybody was once more scrambling to find new places to gamble, worried when they would ever get their money back, and wondering if anybody was going to stay in the US market. A major blow was struck to online gaming and many wondered if it would survive. Again the review sites played a major role in discovering places for players to play. Now the market was very limited and it was a struggle to find online sites. Once again the market slowly started to stabilize and things settled down a bit. The market was damaged but survived.

The next major event was Gray Monday. Grey Monday saw more internet domain names and gambling operations seized. There are two main differences with these seizures. This time both big and small sites were seized. Many different sectors in the industry were seized including online poker, casinos, sports books and even bingo. Basically no one was safe now. Now the size of the organization did not matter anymore. Nor did the industry you were in. This round of seizures was experienced by everyone throughout the gambling industry. The full effects of this seizure haven't been felt yet but there's now even less online [US casinos](#) available. Will the industry survive? It remains to be seen but it's been hit hard.

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