



California Entertainment Machine Association

Representing the Amusement Industry in California

July, 2025

2500 E. Imperial Hwy, Suite 149A-237, Brea, California 92821

714.455.1986 thecema.org cemainfo@gmail.com

● URGENT: Help Protect Claw Machines in California!

Urgent action required as the DOJ is currently reviewing the legality of CA claw machines – CEMA represents California stakeholders and now needs your support.

Operators, FEC owners, manufacturers, distributors and suppliers would all be affected.

CMA needs your support - Please read below and we encourage you to sign our support letter.

In 2010, California's Bureau of Gambling Control (BGC) claimed **all claw machines are illegal gambling devices**. But that opinion is outdated and doesn't reflect how today's machines actually work.

We need your voice to help protect **skill-based and ticket-dispensing claw machines**—a vital part of family entertainment centers across the state.

✓ What You Need to Know

🎯 California Law Allows Skill-Based Games

Under **Penal Code § 330b(f)**, machines that rely on skill—like skeeball and basketball—are legal. Claw machines that require precision, timing, and practice fall into the same category.

🎯 Gambling = Chance, Not Skill

For a machine to be gambling under CA law, it must:

- ◆ Be a device
- ◆ Require payment to play
- ◆ Award prizes **based on chance**

Modern claw machines reward SKILL, not chance.

🎯 Modern Claw Machines Are Not Random

Today's machines:

- ✓ Allow full player control
- ✓ Use consistent grip strength
- ✓ Reward timing, aim, and strategy
- ✓ Offer fair chances to win

🎯 The 2010 Opinion is Outdated

That ruling was based on 1950s machines.

It ignores modern features and advancements in skill-based play.

★ **TAKE ACTION NOW** Help us set the record straight and keep skill-based claw machines legal in California.

👉 [SCAN QSR TO SIGN SUPPORT FORM](#)

