CLAIMS

1. A gaming funds transaction device (106a, 202, 300, 320, 350, 370) located in a casino's gaming floor to allow users to obtain new gaming tickets (120) using credit or debit cards, and/or current gaming tickets (120); wherein:

the gaming funds transaction device (106a, 202, 300, 320, 350, 370) is mounted as a single unit on a wheeled cart with a battery power source to allow casino operators to move the gaming funds transaction device (106a, 202, 300, 320, 350, 370) near to more crowded sections of the casino's gaming floor;

the gaming funds transaction device (106a, 202, 300, 320, 350, 370) comprises a housing (368, 388, 392), a first section (302, 322, 352, 372) in the housing (368, 388, 392), a keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380) mounted exterior to the housing (368, 388, 392) and first and second connection arms (386a, 386c) linking the first section (302, 322, 352, 372) and the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380);

the first section (302, 322, 352, 372) includes a credit/debit card reader (106b, 174, 204, 306, 340, 366, 384, 402, 422), a printer component operable to print and eject a gaming ticket (120), and a processor (430) operably linked with the credit/debit card reader (106b, 174, 204, 306, 340, 366, 384, 402, 422) and the printer component, the processor (430) being operable to exchange messages over a communication link (114) with a validation service (108);

the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380) includes a numeric keypad (314, 334, 364, 390, 396a, 426a), operational keys (316a, 316b, 336a, 336b, 364a – 364n, 396b - 396d), and a display (178, 180, 312, 332, 362, 398, 406b, 426b);

the second connection arm (386c) is movably connected to said first connection arm (386a) at one end and said keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380) at a second end permitting the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380) to be positionally adjusted;

the first and second connection arms (386a, 386c) contain an electronic link between the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380) and the first section (302, 322, 352, 372);

the first section (302, 322, 352, 372) is electronically connected to the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380) by the first connection arm (386a) interior to the housing (368, 388, 392) that extends from the first section (302, 322, 352, 372) to a joint (386b) on the housing (368, 388, 392), and by the second connection arm (386c) that extends from the joint (386b) to the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380);

the first section (302, 322, 352, 372) has wireless transceivers to connect to fixed receivers in a casino to obtain communication links to the validation service and a casino accounting service; and

the processor (430) is operable to:

receive entries from the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380) through the electronic link;

transmit instructions to the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380) through the electronic link that cause the display (178, 180, 312, 332, 362, 398, 406b, 426b) to show respective responses to the entries;

obtain a validation response from the validation service of a charge request received from the credit/debit card reader (106b, 174, 204, 306, 340, 366, 384, 402, 422) to apply as a first cash value to the gaming ticket (120); and

cause the printer component to print and eject the gaming ticket (120) having a second cash value correlated to the charge request.

2. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, further comprising a view shield (394) extending from the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380).

3. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, further comprising a directional viewing screen on the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380).

4. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein the connection arm (386a, 386c) includes a flexible section that extends through a housing (368, 388, 392) of the gaming funds transaction device (106a, 202, 300, 320, 350, 370).

5. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein:

the first section (302, 322, 352, 372) further comprises a cash acceptor (326, 356, 376) operably linked with the processor (430); and

the processor (430) is further operable to apply to the first cash value of the gaming ticket (120) an amount related to monies received in the cash acceptor (326, 356, 376).

6. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein:

the first section (302, 322, 352, 372) further comprises a gaming ticket acceptor (304b, 324b, 354b, 374b) operably linked with the processor (430) and configured to accept a used

gaming ticket (120); and

the processor (430) is further operable to apply to the gaming ticket (120) an amount related to a residual cash value of the used gaming ticket (120).

7. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein the processor (430) is further operable to:

receive an invalidation response from the validation service of the charge request; and

transmit to the keypad section (310, 330, 360, 380) a corresponding instruction for the display (178, 180, 312, 332, 362, 398, 406b, 426b) to show a message related to the invalidation response.

8. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein the processor (430) is further operable to exchange information regarding the second cash value of the gaming ticket (120) with the casino accounting service separate from the validation service.