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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter

For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit www.michingangaming.com



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MICHIGAN SMOKING BAN PROPOSAL MOVES FORWARD

On Tuesday, the Michigan House Commerce Committee voted 12-4 to send a bill banning public smoking in Michigan workplaces to the full House. This vote marks the furthest any smoking ban legislation has moved in the Michigan Legislature.

The proposed ban would include almost all Michigan workplaces including bars, restaurants and commercial casinos. An amendment exempting casinos, facilities with liquor licenses and private clubs failed, but the bill does include exemptions for cigar bars and smoke shops. Tribal casinos are not expected to be affected by the ban because tribes are considered sovereign nations.

Supporters of the ban stated that thirty-one other states have some sort of restriction on workplace smoking, but some make exceptions for restaurants, bars and casinos. In May, Ohio began its ban on smoking in public places, and Illinois' smoking ban will go into effect on Jan. 1. In May, Ontario began enforcing its province-wide smoking ban which included Casino Windsor.

The legislation will now move to the full House for consideration and if approved, will need to win approval from the Senate, and ultimately Gov. Granholm.

Next: Gun Lake Tribe Now Another Step Closer

GUN LAKE TRIBE NOW ANOTHER STEP CLOSER

On Tuesday, House Concurrent Resolution 39, which grants legislative approval for the Class II Gaming Compact entered by Gov. Granholm and the Gun Lake Tribe (aka Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians), was passed by the House Regulatory Reform Committee. The vote was 6-0, with two members abstaining. The compact is now awaiting review by the full House, and then the Michigan Senate.

The compact, finalized this past March, allows the tribe to construct a casino in Wayland Township, about 20 miles south of Grand Rapids. The compact is considerably different from compacts entered into with 11 other Michigan tribes. The Gun Lake Tribe will share between eight and twelve percent of slot machine revenues with the state on a sliding scale, based on the amount of revenue generated in exchange for some exclusivity of its gaming operation in nine counties. The compact also provides for two percent revenue share with local governments, and requires gamblers to be 21 years of age, as opposed to 18 in other compacts.

Should the Tribe receive legislative approval, it plans to construct a 198,000 square-foot facility housing 2,500 slot machines and 80 gaming tables. The casino is expected to create 1,800 jobs, and an economic report conducted by the Tribe estimates an additional 3,100 spin-off jobs will be created.

AGA STILL ACCEPTING ENTRIES FOR GAMING VOICE AWARDS

The American Gaming Association (AGA) is still accepting entries for the 2007 Gaming Voice Awards. The Voice Awards recognize outstanding achievement in advertising and corporate communications in the global gaming industry.

This year, the AGA is accepting entries in three new communications campaign categories including Corporate Social Responsibility, Public Affairs and Employee Communications.

Entries will be accepted until August 31, 2007, and the entry form can be found by visiting http://www.americangaming.org/events/communications_awards/index.cfm.

Award winners will be honored at a luncheon on Monday, November 12, at the Las Vegas Convention Center during the Global Gaming Expo's Training and Development Institute keynote luncheon.

For more information visit www.americangaming.org or e-mail Brian Lehman at blehman@americangaming.org.

MGCB AUGUST MEETING

On August 14, at 10 a.m., the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) will hold its regular monthly public meeting. The meeting will be held at the Board's Detroit office located in the Cadillac Place, 3062 W. Grand Blvd., L-700, Detroit, Michigan

The Michigan Gaming Newsletter would like to give a special thanks to Ashley Loveall for her contributions to this issue.