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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



PROPOSED SMOKING BAN AND GAMING-RELATED LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On Tuesday, the Michigan House of Representatives voted 50 to 49 against Senate Substitute for House Bill 4163 (HB 4163) which seeks to ban smoking in all public places, including the Detroit casinos. For passage, the bill would require 56 votes. The House did decide to allow reconsideration of the bill, and it thus could be brought up again in the future.

It does not appear that any action will be taken on HB 4163 before the November 4 election. Michigan's Senate and House have both adjourned until October 2 and October 15, respectively. Thereafter, Michigan's Senate and House are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday sessions until the November 4 election.

On May 8, the Michigan Senate passed its substitute for HB 4163, banning smoking in public places; including bars, restaurants, indoor areas and the Detroit casinos. This measure passed the Republican-controlled Senate by a vote of 25-12. The Senate substitute removed key exemptions which the original House Bill contained, allowing smoking to occur at the Detroit casinos, cigar bars, smoke shops, bingo halls and at racetracks.

In order for the current draft legislation to become law, it will need to pass the Michigan House and then signed into law by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm. If the House makes additional changes, or adds exemptions back into the bill, then the legislation will need to return to the Senate.

Since passage in the Senate, disagreement over whether the Detroit casinos and cigar bars should be exempt from the smoking ban continues to be debated in the Legislature.

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In efforts to sway his colleagues during Tuesday's vote, Representative Bert Johnson (D-Detroit) voiced, "I urge you to vote no on this bill. All of this session we've worked tirelessly to try to protect employees. The casinos in Detroit provide 10,000 jobs. I'm asking members of this state legislature to remember why we came here. There is an alternative. We should go forward with legislation that has a smoking exception."

The current version of the proposed legislation cannot impose smoking restrictions on Michigan's Native American casinos currently operating under Class III Gaming Compacts entered between the various Michigan tribes and the State of Michigan as a result of Tribal sovereignty.

The current version of the bill that passed the Michigan Senate may be viewed at: [House Bill 4163](#).

IN OTHER MICHIGAN GAMING-RELATED LEGISLATION:

SB 1513 of 2008: Introduced by Senator Samuel "Buzz" Thomas (D) on September 18, 2008. This bill seeks to amend the Michigan liquor control code of 1998 to allow Michigan's commercial casino hotels, located in the city of Detroit, to serve complimentary alcoholic beverages under rules to be developed by the Liquor Control Commission.

HB 6195 of 2008: Introduced by Rep. George Cushinberry (D) in June of 2008. This bill seeks to amend Horse racing law of 1995 in order to allow Michigan's commercial casinos and Native American casinos to host simulcasting and wagering.

SB 1502 of 2008: Introduced by Senator Jud Gilbert on September 16, 2008. This bill seeks to amend the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act in order to require casinos to perform checks on customers with winnings over \$1000 to verify whether or not they owe child support. If it is discovered that a patron owes child support, the casino would be required to apply the winnings first to the debt, and then award any difference to the individual.

HB 6451 of 2008 & HB 6450 of 2008: Introduced by Rep. Barbara Farrah (D) on September 11, 2008. These bills seek to amend the Public Health Code by enacting a state-wide public smoking ban. The bills do contain exemptions for certain public places, including the gaming floor of casinos.

OFFICE OF RACING COMMISSIONER RECEIVES 2009 RACE DATE APPLICATIONS

The Office of Racing Commissioner (ORC) has received the 2009 race date applications from all of Michigan's six pari-mutuel horse tracks. In addition, an application has been submitted by Silver Stallion Inc., a proposed venture for the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan. A summary of proposed race dates is as follows:

2009 Race Dates for Harness Tracks

Hazel Park Harness – 82 days
May 1 – September 19, racing every Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday

Jackson Trotting Association – 26 days
May 2 – July 18, racing every Friday and Saturday in May and June

Northville Downs – 35 days or 43 days
February 6 – April 25, racing every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with double headers every Saturday during March and April

Northville Racing Corp – 34 days
September 25 to November 21, racing every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Sports Creek – 19 days
January 2-4 and November 27 – December 31, racing every Friday, Saturday and Sunday

2009 Race Dates for Mixed Breed and Thoroughbred Tracks

Mt. Pleasant Meadows – 37 days
May 2 – September 27, racing every Saturday in May. Starting in June, every Saturday and

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Sunday

Pinnacle Race Course – 71 days

June 5 – October 10, racing every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in June. Racing every Sunday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday in July and August. Racing Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday in September, through October 10

Silver Stallion Race Course – 110 days

April 24 – October 31, racing every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday

An ORC public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9 at Constitution Hall in Lansing, Michigan regarding the 2009 race date applications. The official dates will be released on October 31.

Early Bird Discounts include group discounts, Native American Casino Registration packages and special hotel and travel deals which registrants may take advantage of at the G2E website.

New this year at G2E is the opportunity for attendees to apply for Express Badges. Expo organizers say the new badges will expedite registration and check in time, thus creating more ease and convenience.

Over 30,000 gaming professionals from around the world are expected to attend this year's G2E from all gaming industry trades and sectors.

To register, or if you have any questions about G2E, please visit www.globalgamingexpo.com.

GREEKTOWN CASINO HOLDS HOSPITALITY JOB FAIR

In preparation for the opening of its permanent casino and hotel facilities in 2009, Greektown Casino held a hospitality job fair this past Wednesday, September 17. Estimates indicate the casino may hire up to 400 additional full-time employees at entry level, supervisory and management positions.

Some available positions that Greektown Casino is seeking to fill include catering, food and beverage, restaurant, housekeeping, and security services.

Casino officials have indicated a desire to hire locally and have partnered with the Detroit Workforce Development Department, which will begin pre-screening job candidates.

TIME FOR G2E EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS RUNNING OUT

Time is running out for valuable Early Bird Discounts for the 2008 Global Gaming Expo (G2E), to be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, from November 17 through 20.